

## Hamoud: Peace prospects bleak

LONDON (R) — An Iraqi minister said Friday no major changes had taken place in Iran since the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and prospects of a lasting peace between Iran and Iraq appeared remote. Nizar Hamoud, deputy minister at the Iraqi ministry of foreign affairs, said Iranian foreign policy was unchanged since Khomeini's death last June and peace moves were stalled by Tehran's refusal to hold direct talks. "It is well known that the state of relations between Iran and Iraq at the moment is that of no war, no peace," Hamoud said in a speech at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. "Observing Iran at present, I see no profound changes from Khomeini's Iran," he said. "I cannot but conclude that if the present situation continues, the long term prospects... is bound to be very bleak indeed." Hamoud accused Tehran of continuing involvement in terrorism and dedication to the export of its Islamic revolution. "Iranian officials continue with great enthusiasm the mass hostile education of the Iraqi people against Iraq."

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## Ministry to license new clearing agents

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Finance has decided to grant licences to new customs clearance agents in line with the government's policy to create new jobs and solve the problem of unemployment. The ministry set a number of conditions for issuance of licences. The conditions provide, in part, for applicants should furnish a bank guarantee of JD 20,000, and should be over 21 years old and hold a Tawjihi or university certificate. The applications will be accepted effective March 1.

## Arar, delegation in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation is in Cairo to attend meetings by the African Parliamentary Union due to open Saturday. The delegation is led by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar, who said upon arrival Friday evening that the Jordanian delegation would be attending as an observer, which is a good chance to meet with parliamentarians from various African countries to discuss Arab-African cooperation in parliamentary affairs. Arar and his team will also be meeting with the speaker and members of Egypt's People's Council to discuss Jordanian-Egyptian parliamentary cooperation.

## League to discuss Egyptian proposal

TUNIS (R) — Arab League foreign ministers due to meet Saturday will debate an Egyptian proposal to return the league's headquarters to Cairo, Arab diplomatic sources said. The sources said several Arab governments had received notice that Egypt planned to raise the issue on Saturday. They said the league secretariat had not been informed of the move but this was a technical point as any member could raise any issue it wanted during the meeting.

## Israel, E. Germany discuss relations

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Israeli and East German officials ended a second round of preliminary talks Friday on establishing diplomatic relations, an East German embassy spokesman said. Spokesman Peter Lohr said a letter from East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow to his Israeli counterpart, Yitzhak Shamir, was given to the Israeli delegation. "The letter, together with further clarifications, was forwarded to Israel for further consideration," the Israeli embassy said in a statement.

## France jails Tunisian for 20 years

PARIS (AP) — A Tunisian who said he was waging a holy war against the West was sentenced Friday to 20 years in prison for activities linked to bombings that killed 13 people in Paris. Fouad Ali Salem, 31, was convicted on charges of conspiracy, possession of illegal arms and trafficking in explosives. His French wife, Karima, and eight other men — three Tunisians, two Moroccans and three Lebanese — were convicted on the same charges and sentenced to terms of five to 10 years. Salem and at least three of the other defendants are scheduled to go on trial again later this year for the murders of the 13 people killed in the wave of explosions that rocked Paris between Dec. 7, 1985 and Sept. 8, 1986. About 250 people were injured as bombs struck train stations, department stores, shops and monuments.

## S. Arabia introduces safety measures for Saudi diplomats

DAMMAM (R) — Foreign Minister Prince Saad Al Faisal said in remarks published Friday that the government had taken steps to protect Saudi diplomats abroad. "The government has taken safety measures to protect Saudi diplomats working in the Saudi embassies abroad, and God willing these measures will guard the kingdom's sons from dangers while performing their duties towards their religion, king and country," Al Madina newspaper quoted Prince Saad as saying.

## King renews warning over Soviet influx

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has renewed warnings that the massive Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel posed a serious threat to the Arabs and efforts for peace in the Middle East.

In an interview with the American television network ABC, the King said Friday that Jewish immigration to Israel would be at the expense of the Palestinian people living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip who will be forced to leave the occupied lands to make room for the immigrants. "This issue is very serious," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the King as saying in the interview. "It deserves concentration of efforts. Attention should be focused on efforts for peace in the Middle East so that the region can enjoy peace just as any other region of the world," he was quoted as saying.

Noting that the rate of Jewish immigration to Israel is expected to increase dramatically, the King said: "Some 46,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories who visit Jordan from time to time are

now staying in Jordan; some of them are not allowed (by the Israeli authorities) to return to their homes in the occupied lands."

The King said there was an urgent need to convene an Arab summit to discuss all issues facing the Arab Nation, including Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and settlement in the occupied territories, "the international changes, the future of the region which we live in, the situation in Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq situation, greater freedoms (in the Arab World) and the future of future generations."

Such an Arab summit, he said, should neither be a "traditional" or "limited" conference.

The King is currently on a visit to London for talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on bilateral relations and Middle East issues after similar discussions with French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris last week. The main aim of the visit, according to reports, is to gather European support in efforts to counter the threats inherent in

the massive influx of Jewish immigration to Israel.

In an interview published in the French Le Figaro daily Thursday, the King said the United States was responsible for the crisis triggered by the exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union.

He said Washington, by imposing restrictions on Soviet immigration into the U.S., was forcing Soviet Jews to go to Israel and eventually settle in the occupied territories. He said the U.S. could use its influence and find a just and durable settlement to the Palestinian problem.

He said Jordan acknowledges the right of all people, including Jews, to live anywhere they choose but not at the expense of the Arab people of Palestine.

### King visits deputy

King Hussein Friday visited Deputy Ahmad Qtaish Al Azaydeh, who is currently receiving medical treatment in a London hospital after undergoing a surgery, to enquire about his health.

## Total amnesty applicable only to illegal Egyptian, Syrian workers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour has amended a decision to grant a total amnesty from fines and legal proceedings against illegal guest workers by clarifying that the measure will apply only to Egyptian and Syrian workers in Jordan whose work permits have expired. Other illegal guest workers will have to pay reduced fines, according to the amended decision.

Labour Minister Qassem Obaidat, in reports carried in the local press Friday, said that the two-month amnesty, which goes into effect March 15, will be applicable only to Egyptian and Syrian nationals and all other illegal guest workers in the country will have to pay reduced fines before they will be allowed to leave the Kingdom. In addition, all have to sign an affidavit saying they will not return to the Kingdom. The fines normally reach up to JD 30 per month or part thereof to be paid to the Ministry of Interior and JD 75 per month or part thereof to be paid to the Ministry of Labour for every illegal guest worker.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Thursday, the minister had said that the amnesty was applicable to all illegal guest workers.

According to Ministry of Labour sources, there are at least 200,000 non-Jordanian workers in the country with only a quarter of them in possession of the required legal documents such as a work permit issued by the Ministry of Labour and a residence permit issued by the Ministry of Interior.

It was not clear Friday why the Ministry of Labour had qualified this total amnesty to make it only applicable to Egyptians and Syrians. Guest workers of the two nationalities are believed to make up the bulk of the foreign labour force in Jordan. The minister could not be reached for comment Friday.

In his remarks published Friday, the minister said ministry teams would continue to conduct spot checks and inspections to ensure that Jordanian employers and guest workers abide by the regulations.

## Aoun turns conciliatory, urges talks on Taif pact

BEIRUT (Agencies) — General Michel Aoun, in a conciliatory move, called Friday for peace with rival Christian and Muslim leaders to end Lebanon's 15-year civil war.

Aoun also dropped his outright opposition to the peace accord worked out by Lebanon's parliament last fall in the Saudi Arabian resort city of Taif.

Police said a week-old ceasefire between Aoun's 19,000 troops and the 6,000-strong Lebanese Forces (LF) militia of Samir Geagea was holding despite minor exchanges of sniper fire.

The inconclusive showdown between Aoun and Geagea for mastery of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave has killed 750 people and wounded 2,089.

"The war is (Christian) east Beirut is definitely over... it appears that violence does not lead to a solution... there will be no more war between east and west Beirut too," the daily independent Al Nahar newspaper quoted Aoun Friday.

West Beirut is the base of internationally-recognised Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

Since last November and during the fighting between Aoun's men and the LF, the Christian enclave has been surrounded by Syrian troops and Lebanese soldiers loyal to Hrawi.

The Maronite Christian President, elected by Muslim and Christian deputies of Lebanon's parliament last November but rejected by Aoun as a Syrian puppet, has several times warned he might have to use force to oust Aoun from the presidential

### Percentages specified

The Ministry of Labour has set certain limits on the number of guest workers who could be employed by Jordanian businesses and industries. A statement issued by Employment Department Director Mansour Al Utoum and carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, set the limits as follows:

Textile industry: 20 per cent to the total work force; clothing industry: 40 per cent; laundries: 35 per cent; construction: 35 per cent; car wash and petrol stations and gas distribution centres: 30 per cent; first class restaurants and three to five-star hotels: 40 per cent; meat distribution centres: 40 per cent; machinery shops: 30 per cent; and shoe making industries: 30 per cent.

There were no immediate reports of violence. The monthly strikes have generally resulted in violent clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops.

In an Israeli prison outside the southern town of Aschkelon a Lebanese inmate was strangled to death by a fellow prisoner who suspected him of collaborating with Israeli forces, army radio said.

On Thursday, the Arab Chamber of Commerce, which represents Palestinian merchants in Jerusalem, appealed to Western governments to urge Israel to stop tax raids on their shops, a chamber official said.

"Every day they are raiding stores in a very harsh way," said chamber Director Faiek Barakat. "They are confiscating goods, searching the owners of stores and taking everything from his pocket."

He accused the tax raiders of "taking the law into their own hands" and said that if a merchant was in a violation of the tax law

The jets hit bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) 60 kilometres north of Beirut, in an unusually deep incursion into Lebanon.

The Israeli army said the targets hit served as "launching points" for attacks on Israel by the PFLP-GC.

The communiqué did not point to a specific attack blamed on the group. While Israel frequently attacks guerrilla bases in South Lebanon in retaliation for attacks on or near the Israeli-Lebanese border, the raid in northern Lebanon was unusual.

The last in the area was on July 18, 1985, when Israeli jets demolished a headquarters building of a Palestinian faction led by Saeed Mousa. At least five people were killed and 29 wounded in that air strike.

On Friday, the target was the Khan Al Khayat region about 10 kilometres north of Tripoli, the Israeli communiqué said.

It was the eighth air raid this year by Israeli jets against targets in Lebanon.

The last one was Feb. 23 against a base near the South Lebanon port of Sidon.

U.S. President George Bush

and Secretary of State James Baker both issued strong statements last week urging Israel not to settle more Jews in Arab Jerusalem or the occupied West Bank.

Last Saturday, Bush told a news conference in California that "we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or East Jerusalem."

Three days earlier, Baker had told a house subcommittee that \$400 million in loan guarantees requested by Israel to help house a flood of Soviet Jewish immigrants should be made contingent on Israeli assurances that the funds would not go for construction in the occupied lands.

The U.S. administration Thursday affirmed the right of Jews to live in Arab Jerusalem but described the predominantly Arab part of the city as occupied territory.

Statements at the White House and the State Department linked Jews in Arab Jerusalem to West Bank settlers.

Aware of the controversy the administration has stirred in Israel, beginning with a statement by Bush on Jerusalem last Saturday, U.S. officials also stressed the closeness of the United States and Israel.

## Cigarette factory reports decline in sales, seeks preemptive action

By Nermene Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sales of locally-produced cigarettes dropped by 24 per cent in 1989, resulting in an estimated JD 9 million loss in revenue for the treasury and JD 1.6 million for the Jordan Tobacco Company, the sole manufacturer of local cigarettes.

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## Najibullah accuses Pakistan of playing big role in coup attempt

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghanistan Friday accused neighbouring Pakistan of playing a major role in a thwarted attempt to overthrow President Najibullah.

Pakistan called the allegation absurd, saying the plot to topple Najibullah only exposed the president in his shaky government.

At least 56 people died and 200 others were injured in the mutiny led by Afghanistan's renegade Defence Minister, Gen. Shah Nawaz Tanai, and dissident soldiers. The mutinous soldiers were supported by fundamentalist guerrilla leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

On Wednesday, Tanai rebels who have been fighting since 1978 to topple the Communist government in Kabul.

While the plot apparently failed, Western diplomats in Pakistan said Tuesday's attempted coup had hurt Najibullah politically and militarily and bought time for the guerrillas preparing for the so-called summer fighting season.

Tanai, a feisty, battle-hardened officer popular among the rank-and-file military, was dismissed as defence minister shortly after Afghan warplanes swooped down and bombed the capital of Kabul, causing extensive damage to the city of 2 million.

Najibullah also replaced Tanai and other key members of the policy-making politburo, the Central Committee and the Supreme Defence Council, which maps out the government's strategy in the 12-year-old war against the Mujahideen, or Islamic holy warriors.

Among those dismissed from the politburo were Said Moham-

mad Gulabzai, Afghanistan's ambassador to Moscow, and Gen. Abdul Qadar Aga Aka, a leader of the air force contingents that helped Mohammad Daoud overthrow the monarchy in 1973.

Daoud was killed in a 1978 coup that installed the Communist government.

During a news conference Thursday in Kabul, Najibullah declared his government had been purged of dissidents and that its ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) was now more united than ever.

"The microbes, the radicals among us, have been cleansed," a Kabul-based diplomat quoted the 43-year-old president as saying. "We don't have any more factions." The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity.

Radio Kabul, monitored in Islamabad, reported that the government had proof that neighbouring Pakistan played a key role in Tanai's attempts to topple Najibullah, the former chief of the feared secret police who was installed by the Soviets in 1986.

"The government of Afghanistan has undeniable documents of Pakistan's interference and participation in the unsuccessful coup. The government demands that Pakistan hand over Shah Nawaz Tanai and others who escaped to Pakistan," the radio said.

The Soviet-backed government regularly accuses Pakistan of training the Afghan guerrillas.

As it has always done, the Islamabad government again denied the charge.

"This (coup attempt) is an internal matter. It involves rival factions within the PDPA and shows that the government's claim of popular support is just a sham," said a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Western diplomats in Pakistan said the mutiny within the Afghan Air Force had hurt Najibullah politically and militarily.

The Afghan Air Force has been credited for helping Najibullah survive since the Soviet Union ended nine years of direct military intervention and pulled the Red Army out of Afghanistan in February 1989.

The Afghan Air Force has been Najibullah's main weapon against the Mujahideen," said one Western diplomat, speaking on condition of not being identified.

"But the coup attempt shows that there is division within the military and the two sides just spent several days destroying each other. They had a lot of planes and a lot of pilots but they don't have as many now."

The air force is vital for providing cover for supply convoys in the capital and for ferrying weapons and supplies to besieged cities such as Khost, Jalalabad, Gardez and Khatol.

With the planes diverted to Kabul, the diplomats said, the guerrillas are now able to move weapons into Afghanistan.

"They haven't had to worry about air cover for several days and this is giving them time to prepare" for the summer fighting season, which usually begins in June after the snow has melted.

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"He's no different than Najibullah. How can we extend our support to a Communist?" said Abdul Raouf Sayyaf, leader of the radical Islamic Ittehad, or Unity of Islam Party. Sayyaf, whose group is supported by Saudi Arabia, has previously sided with Hekmatyar in disputes among the fractious alliance.

Leaders of the guerrillas' government-in-exile have sought to distance themselves further, saying they would never accept Tanai as an ally.

"It is an acceptable proposal which can be suitable ground for starting peace talks," he said in a Friday prayer sermon broadcast on Tehran Radio.

The proposed agenda, given by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to Iranian and Iraqi U.N. envoys Tuesday, covers virtually all outstanding issues in Security Council Resolution 598.

The first of the points, which are not numbered, deals with "further arrangements relating to the ceasefire" that went into force on Aug. 20, 1988.

## Iraq attacks Iran's defence spending plan

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Friday attacked Iranian plans to spend \$10 billion on arms over the next five years, saying the spending would destabilise the Gulf.

Tehran's plans "reflect its policy to continue interfering in others' internal affairs and to destabilise the region," the Defense Ministry newspaper Al Qadissiya said.

Iraq does not normally publish its defense budget, but foreign reports have established its defense spending at \$13.9 billion in 1989.

Al Qadissiya said Iran's "policy of plundering the people's wealth for terrorism and armaments faces stiff resistance from the people, shown during the turmoil in many Iranian towns against the country's economic crisis."

A ceasefire in August 1988 ended the Iran-Iraq war but peace talks have made almost no progress.

In Tehran, Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Friday welcomed the United Nations' proposed eight-point agenda for renewed talks.

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## New Jewish neighbourhoods planned in East Jerusalem

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

The West Jerusalem City Council has said it was examining potential sites in Arab East Jerusalem for thousands of new flats for the city's growing population and for Soviet Jews immigrants.

The search is made in the midst of controversy both over the city and over a massive influx of Soviet Jews.

Last weekend, U.S. President George Bush publicly opposed any increase in Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in 1967, annexed and declared part of the Jewish state's capital.

His opposition to Jewish settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, provoked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to call for as many Soviet Jewish immigrants as possible to be settled in Jerusalem — East and West.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek has also urged Jews from the Soviet Union to settle in both sides of the disputed capital in defiance of Washington, Israel's closest ally.

"The population is growing. Last year the Jerusalem school system had 4,000 more students than the year before," Boxer said. "We also hope a large number of Soviet Jews will move to Jerusalem."

City spokeswoman Bonnie Boxer told Reuters: "The Mount Hahoma site is one of several that is being considered. There are no developed plans for this site. It is only in a very preliminary stage."

She said Mount Hahoma was

Jewish-owned but she did not have details. The municipality

was examining building sites mainly in East Jerusalem because the Jewish sector was already heavily congested.

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City spokeswoman Bonnie Boxer told Reuters: "The Mount Hahoma site is one of several that is being considered. There are no developed plans for this site. It is only in a very preliminary stage."

She said Mount Hahoma was

Jewish-owned but she did not have details. The municipality

was examining building sites mainly in East Jerusalem because the Jewish sector was already heavily congested.

## Prince Hassan stresses importance of studying history for national identity

AMMAN (J.T.) — The study of national history helps nations to recognise their identities. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Friday in reference to the Bilad Al Sham conference that concluded Wednesday.

In an article published by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Crown Prince said that young Arabs today are divided between Western civilisation that they do not fully comprehend and their Islamic heritage that they do not fully study and analyse.

Prince Hassan said that the annual conference on the study of Bilad Al Sham's (Greater Syria) history was meant not only to scientifically study the chronicles of this region but also "to probe

into the achievements of Arabs and Muslims since the days of the Prophet."

"We should not forget that the Prophet Mohammad had laid down the bases of human rights, equality and justice," the Prince said.

Prince Hassan said that the five conferences held between 1974-1990 have contributed to a better understanding of the history of the region that encompasses Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria.

Works by "classical historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, sociologists, economists, and others, all together enrich the historical and civilisational study."

## Tourism revenues register increase

AMMAN (Petra) — The operational profits of the Touristic Investment Department (TID) in 1989 were JD 1,700,000 compared with the total profits made in the 1984-1988 period were JD 1,486,496, TID Director General Isma'il Sat'an Al Hassan said Friday.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Hassan said special attention was being paid to the ancient city of Petra.

"Studies have proved that there is a possibility to attract larger numbers of tourists through establishing resthouses and expanding the already existing hotels," Hassan said. The TID had begun a JD 1,186,758 plan to expand the Petra Forum Hotel by 67 rooms and that the project is expected to be completed by early 1991, he said.

Another 45 rooms, Hassan said, will be added to the Petra resthouse at a cost of JD 1,047,566.

He noted that 95 per cent of the customers at the Petra resthouses and Petra Forum Hotel are

foreigners and that a high percentage of the rooms are occupied. The number of customers drops in summer, he said.

"Profits are expected to increase after the opening of the annexes in the Petra Forum Hotel and Petra resthouses since the majority of customers are foreigners who pay in foreign currency most of the time," he said. Furthermore, the majority of future customers are also expected to be foreigners and the drop in the dinar's rate of exchange will serve as a positive factor in attracting tourists and activating tourism," Hassan added.

"With the increasing demand for tourism trips to Jordan we have submitted a feasibility study to the Social Security Corporation board of directors to erect a new hotel in Aqaba to replace Aqaba Hotel which has 280 rooms," he said.

The TID has prepared several plans to develop hotel activities and tourist sites, improve the system of sales, and to pay special attention to training, he said.

## Cigarette sales decline

(Continued from page 1) economic straits in the Kingdom, and "the cost of production has increased."

Saad said the company pays for imported tobacco and primary products used in cigarette making such as filters, carton, cigarette paper, aluminum foil and polypropylene "in hard currency." Although an increase in the price of cigarettes went into effect in 1989, Saad explained that while the company was calling for a 50 fils share of the 110 fils increase "we only got 18 fils."

"Our call for 50 fils was based upon studies aimed at determining the increase needed to cover our costs," he said.

He added that a major contributor to the decrease in local cigarette sales in the Kingdom "is the availability of imported cigarettes, customs-exempt as well as otherwise."

No definite figures are available on the volume or the amount Jordan pays annually for its imports of cigarettes, but observers noted that some brands appear in the market on an on-and-off basis, which encourage smugglers.

Saad argued that the customs on cigarettes imported by the Ministry of Supply "would not cover the government's 1989 losses of the tobacco company."

Another major problem facing the company is tied-up capital for

storing locally-grown tobacco. "We have nearly 9,000 tonnes in store now which will cover our manufacturing needs for the next five years," Saad said. "But it places a high financial burden on us and on the tobacco farming fund."

"We are freezing our money," he said. "In addition, the stored tobacco is slowly losing all its qualities especially that its shelf-life is only four years," Saad explained.

The company, according to Saad, is seeking ways to reach solutions "which will guarantee the rights of the tobacco farmers and the cigarette-making establishment."

Although no solutions were proposed by Saad, he stressed that the company had been "very careful in maintaining good relationships with the tobacco farmers for the past 60 years" and wants to maintain this relationship.

Tobacco farming in Jordan, mainly in Balqa Governorate, is subsidised by a special fund which is financed by tobacco and cigarette consumers and "not the treasury."

Saad stressed that the company was looking "for fair treatment by the government."

He said that by placing a ceiling on the prices of cigarettes "the government is not allowing us to compete internationally."

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition by plastic artists Arij Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nahmeh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Sliam Al Saoudi at hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Issa at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

### LECTURES

- ★ Lecture on "Muslim Architecture of the Hawran and Hammam Majlis at Baal" by Prof. Dr. Michael Meissner at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture, with slides, entitled "Medical Implications of Israeli Practices in Palestine" by Dr. Naeri Khouri at the VWCA — 7:00 p.m.

### SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar entitled "Women and Politics" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

He said this was made possible by the proliferation of universities and the cooperation between scholars from all over the world.

He added that "the progress in the study of history should be accompanied by progress in the study of other branches of science."

"The study of the various periods of Greater Syria history should enlighten us on how races, religions, languages and peoples blended to create a well-balanced civilisation," the Prince wrote in the article.

"Our ancestors on this land had encountered many frustrations, but also many successes, and the study of our history should provide us with the insight

that the history of nations is fraught with ups and downs," Prince Hassan said.

"If one Arab people (the Palestinians) were uprooted from their homeland, another (Lebanon) is beset by national strife, and a third (Iraq) had to sacrifice its development for the nation's sake, this is not an indication that all is not well and that history is only pregnant with evil and destruction. Our past shows similar frustrations but also many achievements," Prince Hassan said.

The Prince said that the nation is showing signs that it is benefiting from the lessons of history and is the moment opting for cooperation, solidarity and unity.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

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The Prince said that the nation is showing signs that it is benefiting from the lessons of history and is the moment opting for cooperation, solidarity and unity.

The conference, which was attended by prominent Arab activists and intellectuals including a group from Jordan, called on Arab governments to allow human rights organisations to operate in the Arab World and urged Arab leaders to pave the way for pan-Arab integration in all fields.

The participants reviewed external and internal issues facing the Arab Nation and noted with satisfaction a number of measures being taken by Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria and North Yemen to allow political pluralism.

They also welcomed moves in Kuwait for the restoration of parliamentary life, a statement after the conference noted.

The statement said the participants also reviewed the Palestinian uprising and noted with frustration Arab countries' quest to acquire costly weapons but without directing them against the common enemy that continues to occupy Arab land.

The conference also noted with dismay disputes among Arab countries, notably between Syria and Iraq and between Morocco

and Algeria and the tragic situation of the Lebanese people, the statement added. It said that the participants noted with deep disappointment the plight of Arab peoples still facing social and political injustice and oppression in their homeland was through building the Arab Nation's intrinsic power and adopting collective action emanating from a national stand based on the concept of safeguarding the Arab World's national interests.

The continuation of the present state of affairs in the Arab region, the statement said, can only bear the sign of a national catastrophe.

It said that Arab states acting individually can never overcome many of the chronic issues they face nor can they ensure national security for the Arab World.

Individual states unable to carry out reforms and comprehensive development constitute a real obstacle in the path of pan-Arab integration and progress, the statement said.

The conference urged the Syrian and Iraqi presidents to end their disputes and differences immediately and urged all public organisations in the Arab World to exercise pressure on the two presidents to reconcile and end the weakness of the Arab World.

According to Hamad Al Farhan, who was among the Jordanian group attending the conference, the meeting initiated by pan-Arab nationalists intellectuals with no official status or affiliation to a specific political or group. The views of the participants, he said, were comprehensive and served as a broad set of ideas designed to help the Arab World achieve its national objectives.

## Police to enforce seatbelt regulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday launches an intensive campaign throughout the country to ensure that drivers and motorists are abiding by regulations concerning the use of seatbelts.

A statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that those found not wearing seatbelts on roads inside and outside city boundaries will be liable to paying fines ranging from JD 5 to JD 15.

The statement said the use of seatbelts was necessary to reduce losses in human life in road accidents, especially among those sitting in the front seats of vehicles.

Compulsory use of seatbelts came into effect February 1989 and it became mandatory for all

front-seat travellers and drivers; but pregnant women and passenger in the middle of the front seat of a taxi were exempted. The PSD said the use of seatbelts will remain optional for drivers of buses and pick-up trucks.

Newspaper columnists in Friday's press commended the PSD's measures to enforce the use of seatbelts, since this measure was bound to reduce the number of casualties. But they said that since driving at a relatively slow speed inside cities can be of no danger so traffic police attention in this regard should rather be shifted to the highways where motorists are bound to speed with some exceeding posted speed limits causing accidents.

## Jobs available — Shreideh

IRBID (Petra) — Job opportunities in Jordan are available to those who wish to work in all fields and the government has adopted several measures to ensure jobs to Jordanians including withholding issuance of work permits to non-Jordanians, Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh said Friday.

During a celebration held at Sal School in Irbid governorate to mark laying the cornerstone of a charity association in Shreideh said: "There are about 200,000 foreign employees at a time there are 65,000 unemployed Jordanians who hold university certificates."

The campaign will be crowned with a 3.7 kilometre race in Amman March 16 with the participation of 1,200 youths who will be presented with certificates, medals and trophies, Atallah added. He said that the ministries of youth, health, and education as well as the United Nations relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) would support and participate in the race.

## Housing Bank outlines strategy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Bank has reduced interest rates and commissions on housing loans given to people from low-income groups, according to chairman of the board of directors and Director-General of the Housing Bank Zuhair Khouri.

"In mid-1989 and early 1990, the bank reduced interest rates and commissions on loans granted to low income people to finance housing projects... despite the Central Bank of Jordan's decision to float interest rates, Khouri told Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Khouri defined the bank's strategy for the years to come saying that it was based on "meeting all national development requirements... with concentration on the bank's role in meeting the housing needs of citizens particularly those with low income."

The Housing Bank came under heavy attack by parliamentarians recently because they charge the bank receives special tax breaks from the government which are not translated into low-interest loans. Housing Bank branch managers

and directors held their bi-annual conference at the Housing Bank Complex Friday under the chairmanship of Khouri. The conference discussed the latest developments in the economic arena and the bank's strategy for the 1990s.

A statistical study by the bank showed that in 1989 the bank's contribution to development projects increased as the bank provided housing loans estimated at JD 50 million, and development loans estimated at JD 46 million. The bank also provided development facilities for housing and development purposes estimated at JD 33 million. The bank's housing, development, and facilities loans in 1989 amounted to JD 129 million.

The bank's deposits rose to JD 434 million in the late 1989 compared to JD 378 million the year before, the study said. In 1989, the bank opened 11 branches in various parts of the Kingdom and opened other three branches in remote areas. This makes the total number of Housing Bank branches in the Kingdom 59 which represents 39 per cent of the total number of branches of all other banks in the Kingdom.

## Israel challenges U.S. criticism on Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

asked where Jerusalem ended and the West Bank began.

In his original statement which caused the row, Bush said:

"The foreign policy of the United States says we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem. And I will conduct that policy as it's firm, which it is."

Questioned about a decision by the Israeli cabinet to put off until Sunday a decision on a U.S.-backed formula for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue leading to elections in

occupied territories, Fitzwater said "on the Israeli decision, obviously, we have been working with this problem for some period of time."

"There have been starts and stops and delays and we don't look upon these kinds of delays as being particularly good or bad. It's just, essentially, something that you live with. You keep going. You try not to read too much into them (the delays), because there have been so many of them. We'll stick with the process, and whether it's this week or next week or whenever, why, we'll continue to press for the talks."

## Pan-Arab nationalists appeal to governments

TUNIS (Agencies) — A conference of pan-Arab nationalists which concluded in Tunis March 5 has urged all Arab countries to release all prisoners of conscience or offer them a fair trial and called on governments to ensure the rights of political refugees.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation.

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

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## New life and breath

ALL SIGNALS from within Israel and outside it indicate that Sunday's meeting of the Israeli inner cabinet will not produce a breakthrough as long expected but a possible breakdown in the peace process. What is envisioned now is the withdrawal of the Labour Party from the shaky coalition government in the aftermath of Likud's rejection of the Baker proposal for Palestinian-Israeli talks and what could happen next is anybody's guess. One thing is sure however: Many more months will be spent to put the Israeli house in order and this of course will spell another disaster for the search for peace in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the Israeli resolve to cling to Arab territories is being further bolstered and fortified by three principal developments: First, the continued Arab disunity and inability to resolve their deep-rooted difficulties and divisions on many fundamental issues. Secondly, the realignment in international power structure that ensued from the meltdown of the East-West rivalry has weakened the bargaining power of the Arab World to the point that few, if any, capitals now care much about Arab sentiments and opinions. Thirdly, the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union and elsewhere has bolstered the Israeli confidence and ego to withstand anything that may come from the Arab World as it is presently constituted. The Arab response and reaction to massive immigration to Israel has been as usual long winded but short in actions. This is typical of Arab reactions to every danger and threat that came from Tel Aviv ever since its inception. Neither the style nor the content of Arab reaction to such dangers have changed over the past four or five decades. At least now the Arab World might want to be prepared for the eventuality that the peace process would just die away and there might be no hope to breathe new life into the quest for peaceful settlements of the broader Arab-Israeli conflicts, including the Palestinian problem, without a fundamental review of Arab strategies and tactics. Thus far, there are no signs that that is being contemplated. This is an added reason why a special Arab summit needs to be convened soon to examine the Arab options in the aftermath of the repeated setbacks to the Arab World's policies and aspirations.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I daily on Friday referred to King Hussein's statement in the French daily *Le Figaro* in which he blamed the United States for the current crisis triggered by the influx of Jews into Palestine. The paper said that Washington shoulders a grave responsibility in this regard, because it had barred Soviet Jews from emigrating to the United States, forcing them to go to Israel and eventually settling in the occupied Arab lands. The paper said that Washington's attitude was politically motivated: to help the Jewish state absorb more immigrants and settlers, and help Israel and its leaders maintain their expansionist policies in the Arab region. Apart from allowing Israel to muster sufficient manpower to carry out expansionist plans, the United States has also been intent on maintaining an economic, military and financial aid programme to Israel to help provide it with the proper tools for expansion and aggression, the paper noted. As Washington continues to brag about its intention to help the Middle East enjoy peace, it should take practical and meaningful steps towards achieving that goal, the paper added. The Arabs on their part, the paper said, should find the proper means of defending themselves and to fend off this looming danger with all their power and by all possible means.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily newspaper casts doubt on the benefits which Jordan can gain from a new 1991-1995 national development plan which is currently being contemplated by the Ministry of Planning. Faded Al Faneek says that such a plan could be no more than a re-print of the economic restructuring programme undertaken by the government and approved by the Lower and Upper House of Parliament. The writer says that three consecutive governments in Jordan have committed themselves to implementing the programme which was agreed on with the International Monetary Fund and which will take several years to carry out; and therefore, a new national development plan could be existing only on paper. He notes that the country is not in need of an urgent blue print for a national plan to be carried out over the coming five years, because it is already tied up by the economic programme and has already pledged to restrict spending and end borrowing so as to achieve the objectives of the economic programme and attain the aspired goals and results. Furthermore, the writer notes, that many countries in the world had discovered that centralised planning can seldom succeed, and adds that developing nations like Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong have succeeded in making an economic miracle only when they decentralised planning and when they created opportune climates for investment.

Al Dustour daily on Friday also dwelt on King Hussein's statements to the French newspaper, and said that it is now clear that the United States' continued pressure on the Soviet Union over the past years now borne fruit and opened the door for the mass immigration of Jews into Palestine. The United States has been exercising pressure on the Russians under the pretext of defending human rights, but once the door for emigration was opened, Washington closed its doors in the face of the Jews, thus forcing them to go to Israel, the paper pointed out. It said that the United States which has advocated the cause of human rights for so long, has suddenly turned against this dogma and went back on all its principles, merely to help Israel achieve its goals. The paper said that the United States also tends to forget the principle of human rights if those rights pertain to the Palestinian people.

## View from Amman

# 'Marxism: end of ideology?' — Part II

MARXISM did not end in Malta. What ended there was the repressive nature of the Communist State, and the prominent role that the Soviet Union used to play in world affairs. The genius of Karl Marx was that he articulated, like no other man before, the hopes and the aspirations of the then newly emerging labour class, the proletariat. In the tradition of the French philosopher Rousseau, his call for the workers of the world to unite was to liberate, not enslave the people as the Stalinist state later did; a state that added to the earlier chains, more chains. For eventually the Iron Curtain became an iron cage for the very people that the system was supposed to liberate. And as the curtain was established, it tended not only to isolate and insulate but to stifle the soul, until most initiative and independent thinking was crushed. The folly of attempting to keep out ideas and to maintain internal purity was bound to lead to great damage. For to interact with others is not only a challenge to the mind, but also helps in building the immunity of the system.

Within a few weeks after assuming power in March 1985 Michael Gorbachev wondered whether an ideology laid down a century ago still holds validity now. This questioning lies at the foundation of all that has taken place in the Soviet Union, the Eastern Bloc, indeed the world at large. The question also relates to the very nature of the revolution itself. Can anything, even a revolution, put a stamp of respectability on violence? Mr. Gorbachev seems to be saying that all things are impermanent. In saying so he is in total agreement with Aristotle who once stated that the only constants in life are time and change.

Probably the most startling statement made by Mr. Gorbachev is that the knowledge of yesterday was for yesterday's purposes. Should an attempt be made to make knowledge rigidly valid for all time, it will soon turn into a yoke around the neck and a tether tying down the mind when everything else moves. It should be

remembered that it takes a great amount of daring and courage to lift the yoke off and to untie one's mind and soul. People not only fancy the routine but feel very comfortable in the mould and the pattern it soon creates. The curious thing is that the process of change was commenced by the very man who was its product. All previous Soviet leaders were born before the revolution. How is it that only Gorbachev — who does not know personally what existed before 1917 — realised what the hardening of the ideological arteries was doing to his people, his nation?

Not only did the statue of Lenin in Gdansk, Poland, come down but demonstrators in Moscow earlier in February were shouting the slogan, "down with the KGB." On Feb. 2, 1990 they demanded that all the leaders of the Communist Party resign. Almost everywhere, the once mighty Communist Party finds itself compelled not only to share power but also to defend itself. The statues that once were symbols of change, turned in time to idols of worship. And as happens with most rigid ideologies, people soon forget what they are worshiping and become slaves for the symbols themselves. The idea turns into a cult and the cult develops ceremony and ritual that overtake the spirit of the original ideology. Once that takes place the society begins to live on borrowed time; in a state of suspended animation.

One of the most touching scenes was the spectre of a whole population; that of East Germany, simply walking of: leaving their country. Zhivkov, Ceausescu, Honecker and other idols, once on pedestals, have already turned into villains to be bounded for the sin of maintaining the captivity of their people for so long. Is Gorbachev still a Marxist? The question is an impossible one; for the man himself, I am sure, must, at times, wonder. And now that he entered the temple and smashed all the idols, what did he give his people in return? For while the system corrupted the humanist dimension of Marxism it was, nevertheless, highly

entwined with it. What are the people to believe in now? Several generations of Soviet people grew up knowing and respecting nothing but the system in which they found themselves. At the same time they were made to believe that all else was evil. Liberalism, political and economic, they were taught, was not only decadent, greedy, corrupting but war-mongering and destructive too. The transition from one end of the spectrum to the other must be agonising. How does the average Soviet citizen feel now?

Once again, it needs to be emphasised that it was not so much the failure of the idea as much as it is the failure of the system around which the idea was established. Class replaced class and privilege replaced privilege. When Milorad Djilas, though a good Marxist, pointed out that his very good friend Tito put him in jail. Violence turned inwards and the revolution began to eat its own children. But then again, is it only the tool, the government machinery, the system that has failed? Or are there basic structural flaws in the very Marxist analysis itself? The question is of immense importance to the Soviets and others as well. The truth might not be here nor there but somewhere else; and in questioning what is taking place one needs to analyse the basic assumptions, and ideas upon which the whole system stood.

The house of cards fell so quickly not only because it turned man into a one dimensional creature happily immersed into its material comforts, but also because it was structured around one man. In being so, and though proclaiming itself progressive, it became in actuality an archaic anachronistic system. That is why all the centrifugal forces from within and all the mighty armies of the West from without could not bring about the downfall of the system, but one man could. Though the names may differ, all dictatorial one-man-show systems have one thing in common: when they begin to collapse they do so quickly and spectacularly.

## A chance for some serious diplomacy

By George P. Shultz

DIPLOMACY has become a neglected dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The circuits in recent years have been over-loaded with calls for attrac-tive simply but practically unrealistic approaches:

— Some want an all-encompassing solution dictated or imposed from the outside or by an international conference;

— Some say that military strength alone can induce the other parties to make accommodations;

— Some are convinced that only through an almost endless evolutionary process enhancing mutual understand can the adversaries be reconciled;

— Some argue that "a just and lasting peace" is farcical; better to write off the peace process as a delusion under any conceivable circumstance.

But all the while the work of diplomacy has gone on. Even those periods when one or another party has stood aside or even for a time "bowed out" have often served to make a diplomatic point and transform attitudes towards greater realism. Sometimes quiet diplomacy has been in order, but the dearth of news has led observers to complain that the peace process is not getting the attention it warrants. And sometimes, as is now the case, the tactics of diplomacy seem so convoluted, and the pathway ahead so long and roundabout, that media coverage flags and commentators despair that any serious work is underway.

Over the years, however, diplomacy has brought solid achievements:

— The foundation stones for a negotiated solution, U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, with their concept of "territory for peace" have been accepted by all the parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation in 1988.

— The disengagement agreements between Syria and Israel and Egypt and Israel that emerged from secretary of state Henry Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy in 1973-1974 proved that negotiations can work even the most bitter foes.

The stakes for this effort are particularly high at this moment because the world is shifting gears. The changes happening in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe are dramatic evidence of this. We are moving into a more open world, to a knowledge and information age. It requires imaginative and innovative leadership that has a capacity to be decisive — to take a tough political position and rally people to support it. If the Middle East is to keep up with the rest of the world, the peace process is a matter of necessity.

In the Middle East today, leaders who don't find their footing in the new facts of life risk real losses for their peoples and causes. What are the new facts of life? In the realm of the military and defence, old assumptions are dead. Those on the Arab side, notably Syria, who have long pursued the chimera of military parity with Israel can no longer ignore the futility of that notion. The near-automatic support from the Communist world for the anti-Israeli camp is gone. The Communist camp is no more.

— President Reagan's Sept. 1, 1982, comprehensive Middle East peace initiative set out an important concept: any party could come to the negotiating table with any position; that is, the gaps should be narrowed in direct negotiation without endless pre-negotiation bickering.

— The United States in 1988 set forth the idea of an "interlock" between the transitional period during which Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza would start to take responsibility for their own affairs and the guaranteed start of negotiations to determine the final status of those territories. Transitional arrangements would benefit from the interplay with final status negotiations. If Israel gain con-

fidence from Palestinian conduct during the transition period, Palestinians have a right to expect a positive Israeli approach to the principles that will define the final settlement.

And Israel's May 14, 1989, proposal, for elections in the West Bank and Gaza to select Palestinians who would negotiate with Israel, an idea apparently accepted by the PLO, now provides the focal point of efforts to advance the Arab-Israel peace process. The United States has worked hard to foster this important initiative.

The Arabs and Israelis have come a long way from the "three nos" stated by the Arabs in Khartoum in the wake of the 1967 war — no recognition, no negotiation, no peace. Today the prospects for diplomacy are promising, though the old enmities within the Palestinian and Israeli camps are still in play and still inhibit decisions that new conditions demand.

There is no standing still in the Middle East. Yet both sides always find reasons to assert that time is on their side. Today Palestinians can point to the expression of long-suppressed nationalism in the Soviet republics and to South Africa's lifted ban on the African National Congress — and feel that history is with them. Israelis can point to the great movement to Israel of Soviet Jews as one of the most important events in the history of the state of Israel — and feel that history is with them. The legitimate rights of the Palestinian people should be attained. And the flow of immigration to Israel should continue unimpeded. But neither should be taken for granted. The Arabs' tendency has been to urge the outside world to impose a solution; the Israeli's tendency has been to court outside support without accompanying outside influence. In the 1990s, neither side will be indulged. Hard decisions will have to be made and long-held priorities ranked anew.

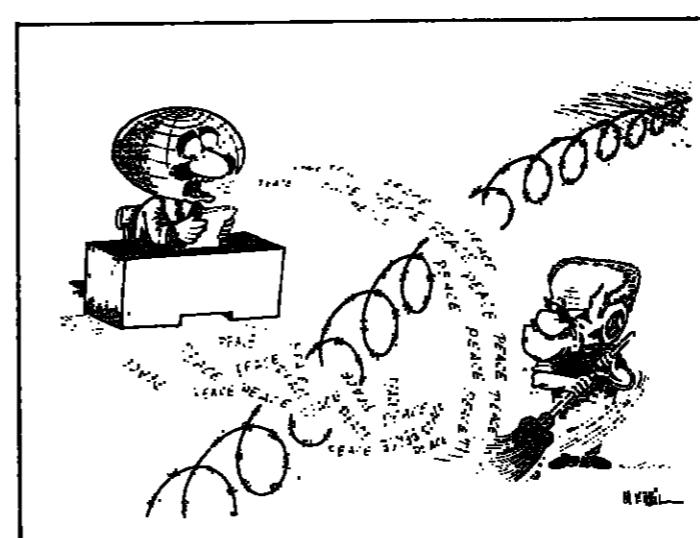
The stakes for this effort are particularly high at this moment because the world is shifting gears. The changes happening in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe are dramatic evidence of this. We are moving into a more open world, to a knowledge and information age. It requires imaginative and innovative leadership that has a capacity to be decisive — to take a tough political position and rally people to support it. If the Middle East is to keep up with the rest of the world, the peace process is a matter of necessity.

In the Middle East today, leaders who don't find their footing in the new facts of life risk real losses for their peoples and causes. What are the new facts of life? In the realm of the military and defence, old assumptions are dead. Those on the Arab side, notably Syria, who have long pursued the chimera of military parity with Israel can no longer ignore the futility of that notion.

The near-automatic support from the Communist world for the anti-Israeli camp is gone. The Communist camp is no more.

— President Reagan's Sept. 1, 1982, comprehensive Middle East peace initiative set out an important concept: any party could come to the negotiating table with any position; that is, the gaps should be narrowed in direct negotiation without endless pre-negotiation bickering.

— The United States in 1988 set forth the idea of an "interlock" between the transitional period during which Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza would start to take responsibility for their own affairs and the guaranteed start of negotiations to determine the final status of those territories. Transitional arrangements would benefit from the interplay with final status negotiations. If Israel gain con-



gical edge over its Arab opponents must face the fact that the combination of ballistic missile proliferation and chemical and biological weapons changes the military picture in the region. Both sides must know another war in the region would be devastating; no sane leadership would consider it. This is not a matter of military parity but of the inescapable reality that traditional concepts of security, "territorial depth," and borders as barriers have lost any standing in this world of new and widely available weapons.

Today, the meaning of borders is changing, and so is the notion of sovereignty. The irrepressible movement of ideas, people and goods requires political and eco-

nomic openness from leaders. In Europe and elsewhere, new arrangements are taking shape that share, limit or disperse the traditional attributes of sovereignty. In the Middle East, comprehensive peace between Israel and all its neighbours, achieved through negotiations based on Resolutions 242 and 338, requiring the exchange of territory for peace, will also require recognition that sovereignty cannot be defined in absolute terms. In today's world, peoples will have a right to define themselves, but not to wall themselves off.

In these territories a vision is needed that transcends the boundaries of traditional nations and addresses the clear

## in the Middle East

needed to work through these matters. It may well be that the most intractable issues can be approached only through indirect and nonbinding steps of mutual acquiescence. The proposed talks on how to carry out elections in the territories provide precisely this setting and opportunity. The current diplomatic process provides a way to build on the achievements of the past and address the changed context of the present and future.

A fresh approach is needed now — Security for Israel must extend beyond the old demarcation lines.

Territory cannot be the possession of one side only when water, power and communications must be regulated on a regional basis.

Political rights — citizenship, self-government, international recognition — can be separated from territorial claims and mixed in various ways.

A little creativity about new mixes of sovereignty might help move the peace process forward right now. The juxtaposition of territory for peace need not be a matter of where to draw lines, but how to divide responsibilities.

The diplomatic effort now going on has been disparaged in the press as "diplomacy carried to the edge of farce," that is, as negotiations are conducted to select negotiators to negotiate on how to run an election to produce negotiators who would then start negotiating on the real issues.

The issues are incredibly complex and the emotions almost unbearably painful and powerful. Time and attention to details are

The immediate next step is for the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the American secretary of state to meet to discuss the election. As always, there are plenty of other vital concerns — among them terrorism, domestic politics and settlements — that must be addressed. Too often in the past the main chance has not been grasped because one or another such concern has come to the fore and pushed the peace process aside. This is another of those moments when leaders must avoid diversion to a bypath and stick to the main route ahead — The Washington Post.

## Mutt'n Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## LA SEMAINE DE ...

Salomon Swales

### Pourquoi lisons-nous si peu?

La semaine dernière, le deuxième "Salon International du Livre" (SIL) a fermé ses portes à Amman. L'heure est donc au bilan. Selon les organisateurs de l'exposition, les Jordaniens ont acheté moins de livres cette année qu'en 1989. Aucun détail n'a été fourni et l'on s'est contenté de dire que près de 100.000 personnes ont visité le SIL en 10 jours. On a expliqué la baisse des chiffres d'années par l'impact de la crise économique sur la population.

En fait, cette explication a peu d'être quelque peu corrigée. Il faut d'abord noter que les prix des ouvrages ont presque doublé par rapport à l'année dernière. Un certain nombre de visiteurs, interviewés par un quotidien local, se sont plaints de cette hausse des prix. J'ai visité le salon en famille il y a deux semaines et, à ma grande surprise, j'ai payé 20 dinars pour quelques livres, tous en arabe!

J'ai également remarqué que les prix étaient marqués... en dollars, sur des livres importés de Syrie ou du Liban. Tout se passe donc comme si le billet vert avait "unifié" les marchés arabes du livre, dans le domaine monétaire.

La vérité ne tient pas que dans cette seule constatation. Pourquoi ne pas le reconnaître? Nous ne sommes pas de grande lecture... Même si certains responsables se vantent parfois du grand nombre de diplômés jordaniens. Et le facteur économique n'est pas, en l'occurrence, le seul responsable de cette situation.

Les statistiques nous apprennent notamment que, même quand la Jordanie vivait une prospérité économique extraordinaire, à la fin des années 1970 et au début des années 1980, nos concitoyens ne se ruaient pas dans les librairies. Ceux qui avaient de l'argent préféraient alors fréquenter les bons restaurants ou les boutiques de vêtements et se laissaient plus attirer, le soir, par la vidéo que par la lecture.

À l'origine de ce triste état de fait, il y a l'absence quasi totale de toute politique culturelle réelle. Dans nos traditions récentes, le livre reste avant tout le manuel scolaire.

On l'étudie pour passer l'examen de fin d'année et obtenir de bonnes notes. Après, on le jette à la poubelle.

Ici, nous concevons le savoir et la culture en fonction d'un travail, d'un poste quelconque ou d'un promotion. Jamais, ou trop rarement, comme "une lumière qui éclaire la vie" ou comme un facteur indispensable au développement de la



conscience des individus tout comme au développement de la société en général.

Le budget réservé à la culture proprement dite est dérisoire (723.000 dinars en 1990), alors que l'on consacre des sommes excessives à d'autres domaines moins essentiels. La production intellectuelle est maigre (voir "Le Jourdain" du 17 février) et nous n'avons pratiquement pas de revues hebdomadaires ou mensuelles de qualité, auxquelles le grand public s'intéresse, comme dans les autres pays.

La lecture des journaux quotidiens ne touche que 16% de la population, dans le meilleur des cas. Les intellectuels jouent un rôle minime dans les affaires du pays. Quant à ceux qui s'engagent parmi ces derniers, ils n'en ont eu jusqu'à présent que le choix entre la prison, la pauvreté ou l'exil.

La télévision, qui est sensée jouer un rôle "culturel" démontre plus un moyen de distraction. 80% de ses programmes se composent de feuilletons, de films arabes (surtout égyptiens) et étrangers (principalement américains), de sports, d'information et de variétés. Des programmes "culturels" au sens restreint du terme.

Il faudra incontestablement faire un gros effort pour rendre la culture plus populaire et efficace dans notre société. La tâche est d'autant plus d'actualité que nous sommes entrés en 1989 dans la décennie dite du "développement culturel", décretée par l'ONU dans le monde entier.

L'ancien ministre de la Culture, M. Hammouri, avait formé en septembre 1988 une commission pour définir la contribution jordanienne à cette décennie. Depuis, elle ne s'est jamais manifestée. Peut-être les résultats du SIL la sortiront-ils de son sommeil.

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Les fresques de Qoseir Amra passées au peigne fin

## Refaire les gestes des peintres omeyyades

Depuis près d'un an, le Département des Antiquités et l'Institut français d'archéologie au Proche-Orient ont entrepris le recensement systématique des peintures murales des thermes omeyyades de Qoseir Amra, à l'est d'Amman. Un énorme travail de copie

grandeur nature, dont le tiers est aujourd'hui achevé. Objectif de l'étude: tenter de comprendre le sens d'une décoration omniprésente et les sources d'inspiration artistiques de l'époque, en refaisant les gestes des peintres. Douze siècles après eux.



Qoseir Amra: des murs aux formes grossières, qui abritent des fresques de toute beauté.

Construit par les Omeyyades au cours de la première moitié du VIIIe siècle, à des kilomètres de toute habitation ancienne connue, le "château" d'Amra (\*) est loin d'avoir livré tous ses secrets. Ainsi de ceux, que recèlent ses extraordinaires peintures murales. Extraordinaires par leur richesse et leur étendue: elles recouvrent en effet l'intégralité des murs intérieurs des thermes.

En mai 1989, le Département des Antiquités a décidé de se mettre à l'ouvrage en demandant à l'antenne jordanienne de l'Institut français d'archéologie au Proche-Orient (IFAPO) de recenser le répertoire iconographique des thermes. Une tâche imposante, confiée à un jeune archéologue français, Claude Vibert-Guiguer.

"Les peintures de Qoseir Amra ont déjà fait l'objet d'études, notamment de la part d'Alois Musil, un voyageur autrichien érudit, qui les redécouvrit en 1898, précise Ghazi Bishéh, le directeur des Antiquités jordanienes. "Mais c'est la première fois que nous nous lançons dans une étude scientifique exhaustive."

### Approximations et dégradations

Conscience des individus tout comme au développement de la société en général.

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Le dessin n'est pas toujours très précis et les éléments des peintures détruits par le temps ont parfois été interprétés de façon abusive", souligne Claude Vibert-Guiguer, en feuilletant un recueil de photographies des planches de Musil et de son assistant, publiées en 1907 par l'Académie de Vienne. A ces approximations, sans doute plus inhérentes aux moyens limités des deux hommes qu'à leur amateurisme, se sont ajoutées des pratiques plus emmêlées pour les chercheurs d'aujourd'hui. "Musil a voulu remporter une partie des fresques avec lui, ajoute l'archéologue français. Il les a découpées par plaques d'environ 20 centimètres sur 30. Il n'est pas toujours parvenu, comme en témoignent les murs en plusieurs endroits".

Les amputations et les mutilations des peintures dues à Musil ne sont pas les seules dégradations dont ait souffert le château d'Amra. Pendant plusieurs décennies, les feux de camp des bédouins, qui dressaient leurs tentes près du monument, l'ont eux aussi endommagé, couvrant les parois de noir de fumée. Tant comme les graffiti de visiteurs peu scrupuleux.

De 1971 à 1973, cependant, une équipe espagnole du musée de Madrid a été chargée par le

400 mètres carrés de peintures

"Pour y parvenir, il faut un relevé systématique des dégradations, autrement dit passer au peigne fin les 400 mètres carrés de peintures intérieures du château", assure Claude Vibert-Guiguer, à qui cette mission collégiale a été confiée. Car pour disposer d'une base solide de travail, c'est à une copie grandeur nature qu'il s'est attelé depuis bientôt un an.

Sa technique? "J'applique directement sur les murs de grandes feuilles verticales de plastique transparent, qui atteignent 6 mètres de hauteur sur 1,40 de largeur. Elles sont maintenues

par des cintres souples en aluminium. Puis je dessine un feutre sur ce calque géant", explique-t-il.

Un dessin, qui recense les peintures, mais aussi les lacunes et les graffiti. "Ces derniers peuvent nous aider à dater avec précision la construction, puis l'abandon des thermes. J'en ai trouvés qui pourraient d'ailleurs remonter à l'époque byzantine. Les inscriptions nous renseignent également sur les périodes de fréquentation du site."

Une fois terminée cette phase

par des feuilles qui permettent de recopier les moindres détails des peintures.

On sait d'ores et déjà que l'inspiration des peintres des thermes pâtit dans le répertoire mythologique romain et dans l'iconographie byzantine. Il est également acquis qu'ils travaillent en équipes. Un artisan possède l'enduit, un autre traçait un canevas, tandis qu'un troisième préparait les couleurs. Le suivant se chargeait des décors d'arrière plan avant que n'intervienne le peintre des personnages", précise-t-il.

Reste à découvrir le sens qui donne à ces peintures omeyyades à ces représentations, ou à faire une idée de la qualité de ces artistes du XIIe siècle. "Refaire leurs gestes me permet d'imaginer ce qu'ils pouvaient sentir, de réfléchir à leurs conditions de travail", poursuit Claude Vibert-Guiguer. Quant à l'explication du choix souvent audacieux et raffiné des couleurs, elle réside peut-être dans les propos d'un philosophe arabe, que Ghazi Bishéh avait noté en 1987: "Tous les médecins, les sages et personnes avisées s'accordent à reconnaître que la vue de beaux tableaux réjouit et rafraîchit l'âme et écarte d'elle les pensées mélancoliques, fortifie le cœur plus que toute autre chose pourraient le faire, parce qu'elle détruit de toute influence néfaste".

## EN BREF

Manifestation. Près de mille étudiants jordaniens ont manifesté mercredi durant deux heures sur le campus de l'université d'Amman, pour protester contre l'immigration massive des juifs soviétiques en Israël. "Le Jihad est notre voie" et "Nous sommes les hommes de Hamas" (le mouvement musulman fondamentaliste de la Bande de Gaza) figuraient en tête des slogans inscrits sur les cartouches ou scandés par les manifestants, qui ont également dénoncé les politiques américaine et soviétique au Proche-Orient.

Amnesty. Le prince héritier, Hassan ibn Talal, a reçu mercredi à Amman le secrétaire général d'Amnesty International, Ian Martin, en visite en Jordanie. Le prince Hassan a notamment affirmé à son interlocuteur le "souci de la Jordanie de renforcer le processus démocratique et de sauvegarder les libertés publiques et les droits de l'Homme". M. Martin a pour sa part souligné "les efforts déployés" dans ce sens par les autorités du royaume depuis les élections législatives de novembre dernier.

Droits de l'Homme. L'état des droits de l'Homme dans le monde arabe a été au centre des débats de l'assemblée générale de l'Organisation arabe des droits de l'Homme (OADH), réunie mercredi et jeudi à Tunis. Plusieurs délégués des sections nationales, dont les représentants de la toute jeune organisation jordanienne (voir "Le Jourdain" du 3 mars) participaient à ce congrès, le deuxième depuis la création de l'OADH en 1983 à Chypre.

Otages. Le président iranien a accordé mercredi soir la libération des 17 otages occidentaux (huit Américains, trois Britanniques, deux Allemands, deux Suisses, un Irlandais et un Italien) du Liban, en déclarant à la télévision nationale avoir le "sentiment" que "le problème était en passe de trouver une solution". Mais Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani n'a donné aucune date. Samedi dernier, cependant, le quotidien des durs du régime, "Kahyan International", avait indiqué qu'elle pourrait intervenir avant le milieu de l'été. M. Rafsanjani a dans le même temps démenti, à l'instar de Washington, que ce dénouement passait par des négociations avec les Etats-Unis. Rappelant que l'affaire des otages "ne concernait pas du tout" Téhéran. De son côté, l'Organisation de la Justice Révolutionnaire (OJR), qui détient deux ressortissants américains, a affirmé le même jour que ces derniers ne seraient pas libérés sans satisfaction de ses exigences.

Kaboul. La capitale afghane était calme hier pour la deuxième journée consécutive après l'écrasement, annoncé par les forces loyalistes, d'un coup d'Etat fomenté par une fraction de l'armée dirigée par l'ex-ministre de la Défense, le général Shah Nawaz Tanai. Marchés et administrations avaient rouvert leurs portes jeudi, 48 heures après la tentative de putsch, qui aurait fait plusieurs centaines de morts et de blessés à Kaboul.

Islam. Le ministre français de l'Intérieur, Pierre Joxe, également chargé des cultes, a institué mardi un "Conseil de réflexion sur l'Islam en France". Cette décision fait suite à une réunion entre M. Joxe et les six "sages" musulmans, qu'il avait désignés en novembre 1989 pour réfléchir à l'organisation de la communauté musulmane, qu'il avait désignés en novembre 1989 pour réfléchir à l'organisation de la communauté musulmane de France. L'objectif de ce conseil, qui se réunira dès le 17 mars, est de créer une instance de dialogue avec les pouvoirs publics, qui soit représentative des quelque trois millions de musulmans vivant dans l'Hexagone.

"Force Unie". C'est le nom donné par Michel Noir et François Léotard (députés et anciens ministres conservateurs français) au mouvement politique qu'ils ont lancé mardi dernier. Le lendemain, neuf parlementaires ont annoncé leur adhésion à cette nouvelle structure, parmi lesquels deux sénateurs de l'UDF (droite libérale), José Balaire et Jean-Claude Gaudin.

Retour. Le groupe agro-alimentaire français Perrier a commencé mardi à réapprovisionner ses distributeurs dans le monde entier, trois semaines après avoir retiré de la vente quelque 160 millions de bouteilles. La nouvelle cuvée porte la mention "Nouvelle Production" et est accompagnée d'une vaste campagne publicitaire internationale. Disponibles depuis mercredi en France, la fameuse eau pétillante sera de retour dans la plupart des pays européens début avril. Perrier avait décidé de retirer sa bouteille fétiche des marchés le 14 février, après la découverte de traces trop fortes de benzène dans certaines bouteilles distribuées aux Etats-Unis.

Obus. Plusieurs centaines d'obus et autres engins explosifs de la seconde guerre mondiale ont été retrouvés le week-end dernier sur les plages françaises de la Manche. Selon la préfecture maritime de Cherbourg (Normandie), la récente et violente tempête, qui a touché la côte ouest du pays, est à l'origine de cette découverte. Certains obus et mines ont été désamorcés. Les autres ont été rassemblés pour être détruits.

En souffrance. Les listes d'attente des personnes devant être opérées dans les hôpitaux britanniques se sont encore allongées en 1989, dépassant pour la première fois le million de patients, selon un rapport de l'association nationale "Collège de la Santé", publié jeudi à Londres. Selon cette enquête, 26% des malades devant être hospitalisés et 16% de ceux qui peuvent être traités en une journée ont attendu plus d'un an avant de pouvoir être soignés.

## Doublé dominical

"Le Jourdain" prend ses aises. D'une page hebdomadaire, il passe à deux, qui paraîtront désormais le dimanche, avec pour ambition de vous offrir plus de sujets, et de loisirs, comme vous l'avez souhaité dans vos réponses au "minisondage" de juin 1989. Plus d'espace, et donc, pour vous, plus d'occasion d'écrire...

Si la plume vous en dit, contactez Alain Renon, French section, Jordan Times, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Tél: 667171.

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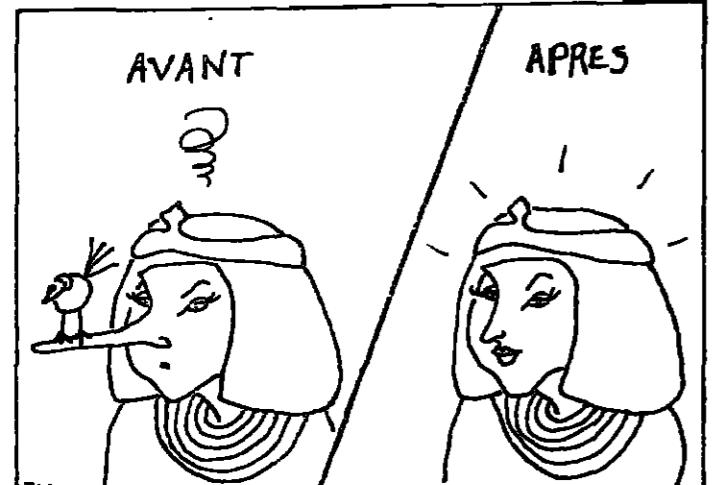
## La chirurgie esthétique à la cote

Née au début des années 1980 dans le royaume, la chirurgie esthétique est en pleine expansion. Un «boom» discret mais constant, qui se traduit aujourd'hui par 1.500 à 2.000 interventions annuelles. Un chiffre qui aura doublé en l'an 2000, si l'on en croit son précurseur, le docteur Ghait Shubailat.

Lifting, remodelage du nez, des lèvres, du front, du coin des yeux, subtils escamotages de menus défauts des poitrines féminines et incontournables ablations des «poignées d'amour» trop saillantes... La coquetterie des Jordaniennes, et des Jord-

à pratiquer cette spécialité», précise-t-il. Une spécialité, dont le docteur Shubailat aime à rappeler qu'elle doit tout au choix des deux médecins d'implanter en Jordanie la chirurgie reconstructive. «Quand nous nous sommes spécialisés, dans les années 1970,

les Jordaniennes, et des Jord-



niens, n'a rien à envier à celle des Européens ou des Américains. Hommes et femmes confondus, ils sont entre 1.500 et 2.000, qui frappent annuellement à la porte des quelque 15 cabinets privés de chirurgie esthétique du royaume.

En tête des requêtes: les changements de nez et les «dysmorphies», nom barbare d'une technique de prélevement des graisses superficielles. «C'est un procédé simple que j'utilise depuis maintenant quatre ans. On se sert de canules métalliques qui aspirent les sels de la peau, responsables des rondeurs», explique le docteur Ghait Shubailat, grand précurseur de la chirurgie plastique dans le pays.

Son nom reste en effet attaché aux débuts de cette médecine de confort dans la région, il y a à peine 6 ans. «Ainsi que celui de notre doyen, le docteur Farid Yaghnam, qui fut le tout premier

à laquelle fut ouvert au Centre médical royal le «Pavillon Farah de réhabilitation», le mieux équipé et le plus compétent du monde arabe», assure-t-il. Il est vrai qu'il dispose aujourd'hui d'une équipe de chirurgiens, d'infirmières et d'aides-soignants parfaitement formés et désormais rompus aux techniques des greffes et de la micro-chirurgie.

Retraité de l'armée depuis 1984, le docteur Shubailat est cependant le premier à avoir ouvert une clinique privée de chirurgie esthétique, la même année, près de l'hôpital Khaladi de Djebel Amman. C'est d'ail-

leur c'est pour introduire ici un service hospitalier capable de traiter les grands brûlés, les blessés de la route, ou encore de faire face aux cancers et aux amputations mineures.

C'est chose faite depuis 1978, lorsque il a quitté Paris mercredi pour Londres, où il effectue actuellement une visite semi-officielle, semi-privée. (D'après agences).

## Journée internationale de la Femme

### Manifestations en Palestine

Célébrée le 8 mars dans le monde entier, la journée internationale de la Femme se veut l'occasion pour plus de la moitié de l'humanité de rappeler les injustices et les inégalités dont elle reste victime dans de nombreux pays. Dans les territoires occupés, les Palestiniennes ont surtout dénoncé la répression militaire israélienne.

Plusieurs centaines de femmes palestiniennes ont manifesté avant-hier dans diverses localités des territoires occupés, à l'occasion de la journée internationale de la Femme. Aux revendications proprement féministes, la plupart d'entre elles ont préféré la formule des sit-in de protestation pacifique contre la répression militaire israélienne de l'Intifada. Ainsi à Béthléem, Ramallah, Hébron ou encore Jérusalem-Est, où les manifestantes ont occupé les locaux de la Croix-Rouge.

A l'issue de leurs rassemblements, elles ont manifesté en cortèges, brandissant des drapeaux palestiniens. Cortèges que la police israélienne a dispersé à coup de grenades lacrymogènes dans la partie orientale, saisi par les principaux mouvements de femmes. (D'après agences).

### Point de vue

En Jordanie, la Journée de la Femme n'a guère donné lieu à rassemblement, manifestation ou débat public. La Fondation Shoman, certes organisé plusieurs rencontres cette semaine sur ce thème, mais sans mobiliser les foules. C'est à la suite d'ailleurs pour l'ensemble du monde arabe, et qu'interroge ci-dessous Faycal al-Zaraigat.

### Pas d'équivalent de Simone de Beauvoir

Avant même la Journée Internationale de la Femme, l'Association des artistes jordaniens avait organisé un débat sur la place de la femme dans notre pays. D'autres institutions, comme la Fondation Shoman, ont proposé cette semaine des rencontres sur ce même thème. Ayant assisté à la plupart de ces manifestations et entendu les points de vue qui s'y sont exprimés, je voudrais mettre l'accent sur les points suivants:

1 — Je pense que les intellectuelles, qui prétendent vouloir défendre la femme dans le monde arabe, n'ont pas fait, jusqu'à maintenant, les analyses historiques et les études de fond qui s'imposent pour comprendre pourquoi, chez nous, les femmes ne jouissent pas de tous leurs droits. Nous ne comptons parmi nous aucun équivalent de l'écrivain français Simone de Beauvoir, par exemple.

Le mouvement féministe arabe et les travaux accomplis jusqu'à présent sont loin d'être satisfaisants. Bien au contraire: les militantes ont souvent perdu leur sang-froid, présentant les problèmes sous la forme d'une guerre contre l'homme. Trop souvent, les poncifs tiennent lieu de réflexions sérieuses. Et jamais, la question de la femme n'est traitée comme un point essentiel.

On retrouve cette lacune dans les essais du Palestinien Hisham al-Sharabi et du Marocain Adid al-Jabiri, consacrés à l'histoire de la pensée arabe.

Aucune femme arabe n'a signé de livre, qui prenne en considération l'histoire et la religion de façon franche. Les affrontements, puérils, entre quelques féministes et le courant religieux sont ridicules.

Le vrai Islam n'a jamais combattu les droits de la femme. Ensemble.

Faycal al-Zaraigat

## Diplomatie

### Le roi Hussein à Paris

Le roi Hussein a achevé mercredi une visite officielle de deux jours en France, où il s'est notamment entretenu avec le président François Mitterrand, le chef du gouvernement et les ministres français des Affaires étrangères et de la Défense.

A l'en croire, ces chiffres ne

feront que croître dans le futur. «Avant l'an 2000, le nombre de patients aura doublé. Et ce, malgré le prix élevé des opérations.

Remodeler un nez coûte ainsi, en moyenne, de 800 à 1.500 dinars. Des tarifs certes bien moins forts qu'en Europe mais en valeur absolue, mais qui délestent promptement le portefeuille du Jordanien moyen. La prospérité de ce secteur vient surtout du fait que ce n'est plus un tabou. Les gens avouent facilement de nos jours, qu'ils sont passés entre les mains d'un chirurgien esthétique.

S'exprimant à l'issue de cette rencontre, le roi Hussein a rappelé qu'il était partisan de la convocation d'un sommet arabe, consacré aux défis lancés à la région. Il s'est également déclaré «satisfait» de son entretien avec le président français, qu'il a qualifié d'«homme de principes». Les deux hommes sont convenus par ailleurs de maintenir des «échanges de vues» une à deux fois par an.

Le roi a quitté Paris mercredi pour Londres, où il effectue actuellement une visite semi-officielle, semi-privée. (D'après agences).

## A L'AFFICHE

### FOCUS

#### Les blessés de l'Intifada

En marge de la conférence sur «Les implications médicales des pratiques israéliennes dans l'occupation de la Palestine», présentée ce soir au YWCA, à 19h00, par Dr. Narsi Khoury,

voici quelques chiffres sur les blessés de l'Intifada. Depuis plus de deux ans que dure le soulèvement dans les territoires arabes occupés, on sait désormais qu'en moyenne un Palestinien meurt chaque jour. Mais, sait-on que pour un tué, on compte cent blessés?

Le bilan des deux premières années d'intifada, établi par différentes organisations humanitaires en décembre 1989, démontre 70.000 blessés d'une moyenne d'âge de 18 ans et demi. 50 pour cent ont été meurtris par des balles réelles ou en plastique et 50 pour cent par des coups. 3.000 d'entre eux sont handicapés à vie et environ 150 ont perdu totalement ou partiellement la

vue. Ces chiffres sont contestés par les autorités israéliennes qui ne reconnaissent que 15.000 blessés.

On peut expliquer l'écart par le fait que nombre de blessés évitent d'entrer à l'hôpital pour échapper aux recherches. Ainsi, un nombre non négligeable de jeunes Palestiniens gardent très longtemps des plaies infectées, au risque d'une aggravation de leur état, ou bien encore, cicatrisent dans la clandestinité et survivent avec une ou plusieurs balles dans le corps.

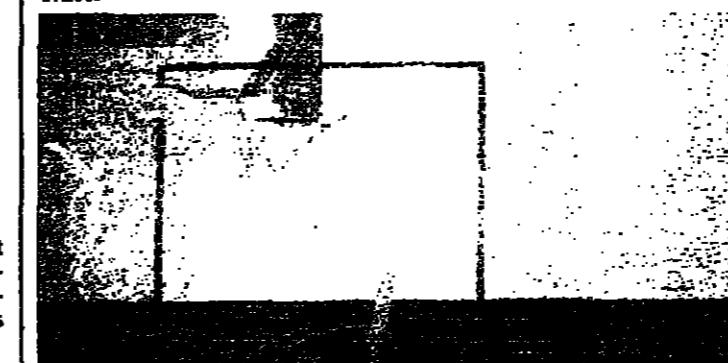
Une situation qui complique l'exercice de la médecine dans les territoires et qui pourrait, à terme, créer une génération de handicapés sans autonomie et sans infrastructure pour les accueillir.

F.M.

### EXPOSITIONS

Peinture. La Fondation Shoman présente les œuvres de sept peintres irakiens: Shaker Hassan al-Sa'id; Salim al-Dabagh; Rafi al-Nassar; Sa'ad al-Ka'b; Ali Taleb; Mohammad Mahrufin et Ismail Fatah.

Centre culturel et scientifique de la Fondation Shoman (Shameisani), jusqu'au 4 avril. L'exposition est ouverte tous les jours, sauf le vendredi, de 10h00 à 17h00.



L'une des quatre variations sur le thème «Notre monde aujourd'hui», présentées par Mohammad Mahrufin à la Fondation Shoman.

Peinture. Ahmad Nawash expose ses toiles au centre culturel français.

CCR, du 17 mars au 5 avril. Vernissage, samedi à 18h00.

Peinture. Le peintre jordanien Mahmoud Issa expose au centre culturel royal.

CCR, du 10 au 15 mars, de 10h00 à 20h00. Inauguration samedi à 18h00. Entrée libre.

### CONFÉRENCES

«Les implications médicales des pratiques israéliennes dans l'occupation». Conférence et débat animés par le docteur Narsi Khoury.

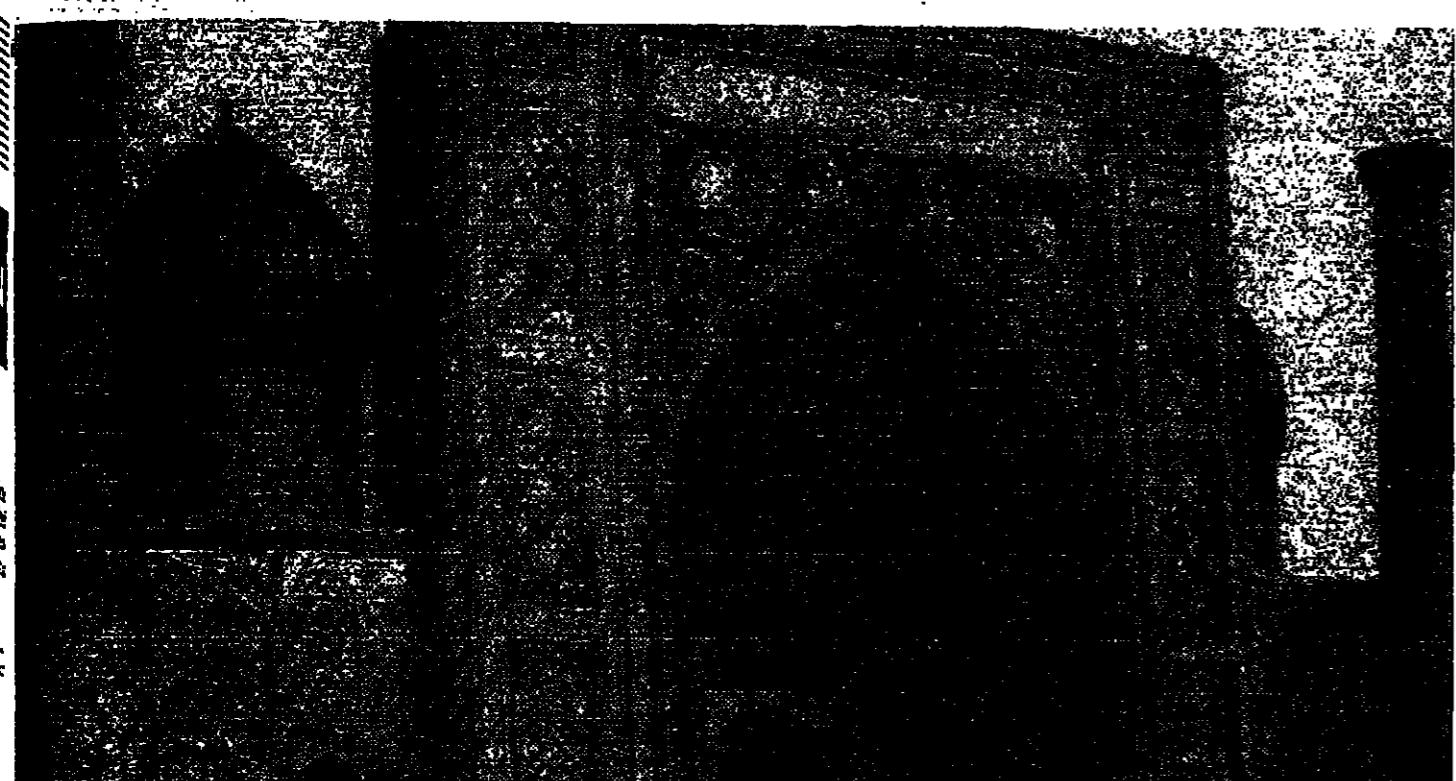
YWCA (jebel Amman, près du 3e cercle), samedi 10 mars à 19h00. (voir FOCUS).

De Gaulle, l'homme du 18 juin, par Philippe Bac, professeur au CCF. De l'appel à la résistance contre l'occupation nazie de la France à la libération, le rôle de l'homme dont l'histoire personnelle se confond pendant trois décennies avec celle de l'Hexagone.

Centre culturel français, mardi 13 mars à 18h00 (en français).

CONFÉRENCES

CONFÉ



A reconstructed mosque in Registan Square, Samarkand, shows awareness of tradition in a city once a centre of Muslim culture now with a restored glory.

## Muslims in Soviet Union emerge from obscurity

By John Lawton

THERE are more than 100 non-Russian nationalities living in the Soviet Union who, after a century of near-invisibility to casual Western observers, are making their presence felt in today's changing Soviet Union.

Of the Union's 15 republics, six — including its second biggest — are still, despite decades of religious repression, largely, actively and consciously Muslim.

In fact, the Soviet Union's 53 million Muslims compose almost one-fifth of the entire 280 million population of the USSR.

After ethnic Russians, they are its second-largest population group. And since their numbers are growing four times as fast as the Soviet population as a whole, Soviet Muslims are projected to outnumber Russians in 30 years.

They are mainly of Turkish origin. Along with Persian-speaking Tajiks, they occupy the vast crescent of land stretching from Europe to China along the southern rim of the USSR.

These people are descendants of the fierce nomadic tribes of Mongolia, the one-time rulers of Central Asia who founded the glittering medieval cities of Bukhara and Samarkand.

They were swallowed up by the southeastern expansion of Russia's czarist empire in the 19th century, and then fell under control of the Communists after the 1917 Revolution.

Now, however, as the century draws to a close, the people's of the Soviet Union's Muslim republics — Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia and Uzbekistan — are seeking to regain control of their own destinies.

Although they have not been as strident as the Ukrainians, Estonians or Latvians in their

calls for autonomy, Muslims were among the first to test Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of democratisation. In 1986, Kazakhs demonstrated against the imposition of a Byelorussian as Communist Party boss of their republic — the USSR's second-largest.

Since then, more than 100 protests have been recorded in Soviet Turkistan, as the Muslim republics are collectively known.

Recent visitors report the growing isolation of local Communist parties and the emergence of an alternative and definitely Muslim leadership.

As The Times of London reported, "It is among the younger generation, especially students and intellectuals, that Islam is recruiting its most ardent advocates."

Many Muslims, including some former Communists, are returning to "the sure values of their ancestral culture," says Tajik poet Mir-Goliev, because of the present uncertainties in the Soviet Union.

"If the Russians themselves do not know what they are going to do next," he says, "why should we ask them for solutions to our problems?"

Muslim leaders say that under Communist rule there have been vast improvements in health and education, but their lives have been restricted religiously, politically and economically.

Moscow, they say, shut down all but 400 of their 26,000 mosques and all but two of their religious colleges. Muslims were able to keep their religion alive by their own grass-roots efforts: through hundreds of Koranic schools and prayer centres and through the work and faith of thousands of itinerant, unofficial clerics.

And despite their numbers,

Muslims say, they have been allowed virtually no voice in government: since the Communists gained control of Muslim regions in the 1920s, only three members of the ruling Soviet body, the Politburo, have had Muslim backgrounds.

Also, although Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Volga River basin, where most Muslims live, together account for more than half of the USSR's agricultural production and a good part of its mineral wealth, Muslim-populated regions are among the poorest in the union.

The Russians, Muslims say, have utilised the resources of Soviet Turkistan almost as if the region were a colony.

Moscow's central planners, for example, designated Uzbekistan as the USSR's cotton-producing republic and pinpointed Kazakhstan to grow wheat, bring vast tracts of "virgin lands" under cultivation.

But it was done at a price: diversion of rivers to irrigate these new lands has resulted in the virtual desication of the Aral Sea. Once the fourth-largest lake in the world, the Aral has fallen 13.5 metres and shrunk to half its original area: it is surrounded by a grim desert of salt and sand.

The slow death of the Aral Sea has cut across the borders of the republics and become a vehicle for nationalist expression. Turkic writers are using it as a blight from which to snipe at more sensitive issues such as social problems and political control by Moscow.

Although it has been possible to learn more about Muslims in the USSR since Gorbachev ushered in his policies of perestroika and glasnost, no foreign embassy or consular personnel live or work in the USSR's Muslim regions, and no foreign jour-

nalists are based there. But according to Edward Allworth, of the Central Asian Centre at New York's Columbia University, Western and Middle Eastern nations disregard the "rumble of change in contemporary Turkistan only at great, long-term risk."

For "very soon," he warns, "developments in Turkistan will increasingly affect nearby regions."

All the major Muslim nationalities in the USSR have relatives in neighbouring countries with whom they share close ethnic and religious ties.

Two million Tajiks and more than one million Uzbeks live in Afghanistan. Four hundred thousands Turkmen live in Iran, and Kazakhstan and Kirghizia share a frontier with China, with its own large Muslim population.

Certainly the binding force of Islam extends across the Soviet south and beyond, yet the forces for change within Soviet Turkistan so far "have carefully avoided making their appeal religious." The New York Times noted recently, because of fears that Moscow might cite religious extremism as a reason to suppress them.

In fact, the newspaper adds, radicals form only a small and isolated minority among Soviet Muslims.

And Amir Taheri, author of the recently published *Crescent in a Red Sky*, says that while "some believe that the way is now open for Muslim regions to regain control of their own destiny, few dream of independence, which would mean the breakup of the USSR."

As an unsigned article in the magazine *Turkistan* explained recently, the Muslims of the USSR "demand a solution, not a revolution" — Aramco World.

Euro-business — the young wolves. Ambitious and competitive, they consider the world a jungle.

Euro-rockies — leave school at 18. Ego-centred, they want to have money and spend it, but don't want responsibility.

Euro-squadra — hedonists, they are keen on bodily pleasure, leisure and sport. Higher proportion in southern countries.

Euro-romantics — the dreamers and cocooners whose life revolves around the family. Many found in Germany.

Euro-olvidados — they are among the poorest EC citizens, concerned with material things and suspicious of change.

Euro-vigilantes — conformists, they are frustrated at their lack of spending power and sceptical about unfamiliar things.

Euro-prudent — among the most resistant to change, they take a cautious, practical view of life.

Euro-strict — highly educated and moralistic, with a strong repressive trait. Hard-working and mindful of their position.

Euro-gentry — the golfers. Self-styled aristocrats. Traditionalists but less fanatical than the Euro-strict.

Euro-citizens — community leaders and organisers. They are sensible and public-spirited.

Euro-scout — an older group. Of average income, they are humanists with religious values.

Euro-pioneers — the shakers and movers. Environmentally aware, well-educated and affluent. Into travel and culture.

Euro-protest — the hippies. Less well off, into innovative values, anti-establishment. Want to change the world.

Euro-defence — right-wing and xenophobic.

Euro-moralists — conservative. Their moral values are important to them.

## A new window on the Arab World

A Kadia Sabet

CAIRO — The concept of a "global village" touted by communications experts took new meaning recently for the many Arabs who live in Europe. Using the latest technology, a young entrepreneur who has risen to be the youngest film producer in Egypt took advantage of Cairo's recent cinema festival to announce the creation of an Arab TV channel scheduled to start broadcasting from London this spring.

Mehdat Al Cherif disclosed his new project before a crowd of celebrities from the entertainment world.

The idea to set up an Arab channel was born from the longing that many Arabs living in adoptive countries feel for the type of media they enjoyed back home," explained Atef Ibrahim, chief executive for one of Al Cherif's many companies.

"Although they often have the opportunity to watch Arab video movies, these exiles aren't satisfied with movie productions because they don't portray real everyday life back home; what they want is the real thing, information on current events within the social context they remember."

To start with the Arab channel is scheduled to broadcast from 7 a.m. to noon and offer a condensed version of a full 24-hour programming including the Koran, which will start the day, special shows for children, news bulletins, cultural happenings, dramas and sports coverage.

A resident of Germany, Leila Al Baghouri expressed her enthusiasm for the project. "I admit that German television is very interesting, especially when it comes to news and documentaries; and we also get from France and Germany excellent cultural programmes. But all of us living abroad feel a certain nostalgia for broadcasts in the Arabic language which tell us about our culture and our roots," she commented.

"And what's very important is that it will enable our children who grow up in a foreign culture to hear the language of their country spoken by people other than their parents."

Other comments came from a famous couple, actor Moamen Mohiedine and his wife, actress Nesrine: "The fact that the new channel will borrow films and television series from Egypt will stimulate us and encourage us to improve," he noted. "This channel opens up incredible vistas, it will more than double our audience."

"Foreigners will become acquainted with our production," Nesrine said. "I don't know how the TV people will manage to receive the channel — temporarily called "Arab Channel" — via cable or satellite. At first viewers

will pay nothing to tune in, which should enable the public to familiarise itself with the format, sponsors hope. Right now work is progressing at the London building where headquarters will be located. The equipment was provided by Tamido Film, another firm from the Al Cherif group.

At the helm will be a veteran of Egypt's radio, Dr. Mohammed Tewfik, assisted by media specialists such as art critic Wagih Khairi, and of course Al Cherif himself, whose interest for anything to do with film or television production never wavers. Atef Ibrahim said.

While some question the choice of location for the station — Paris was mentioned as a more central location than London for a European channel — Atef Ibrahim pointed out that the distance between the two capitals is short. And language was an important factor, he added. A majority of the shareholders who financed the channel speak English and live in England.

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Medhat Al Cherif announces the creation of an Arab television channel to broadcast from London.

lic would never see otherwise," he said. "Modern painting, for example, is very sophisticated in the Arabic World, and this colour channel is an open door to a much greater audience."

"My first thought is for the artistic impact of the Arabic Channel because that's my field," Sabban admitted, "but I don't doubt that it will have a positive effect in many other domains."

Is the world ready for a global village ready to share and accept different cultures? Medhat Al Cherif and his team are betting that the miracles of modern technology are also changing man's perception of his environment as limited by borders and traditions — World News Link.

## The population bomb about to explode

By Norman Myers

WE DON'T hear much about the population any more, except occasional noises that the issue is pretty much over on the grounds that fertility rates have been declining in most of the developing world. But the problem is as problematical as ever. True, there is better news on certain fronts. Overall, however, the population explosion is poised to enter its most dramatic phase.

The past 60 years have seen a far greater increase in human numbers, from two billion to five billion, than in human kind's entire history. But that is nothing compared with what is to come. During the next 40 years we may well see another five billion added.

Moreover, this is a medium projection. If more countries follow the regrettable example of the Philippines and most countries of sub-Saharan Africa by allowing their population growth rate to keep on rising, the ultimate total for humankind's numbers is projected to reach well over 14 billion people.

But if, by contrast, most countries follow the splendid examples of China, South Korea, Taiwan, Java, Thailand, Kerala State in India, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Cuba, we shall end up with a projected total of little more than eight billion people. The difference of six billion people is way more than exist on Earth right now.

According to the World Hunger Project at the University of Rhode Island, if all humans were to confine themselves to a strictly vegetarian diet, Earth could, with present levels of agro-technology and equal distribution of food, support a maximum of six billion people.

If people were to derive 15 per cent of their calories from animal protein, as do many people in South America today, the total would jump to four billion; and if they gained 25 per cent from animal protein, as is the case with most people in North America, then the Earth could support only three billion.

But as Professor Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University points out, between 1985 and 1988 world population increased by 5 per cent, while per capita food output declined by 5 per cent.

What do we need to do if we are to slow population growth much faster than to date?

First we should supply family-planning services to all those couples who possess the motivation but lack the "contraceptive hardware." The proportion of women with such unmet needs ranges in different countries from an estimated 11 per cent to 42 per cent.

Suppose we accept a rough approximate average of 25 per cent of the 450 million women "at risk" in the Third World, or 113 million in all.

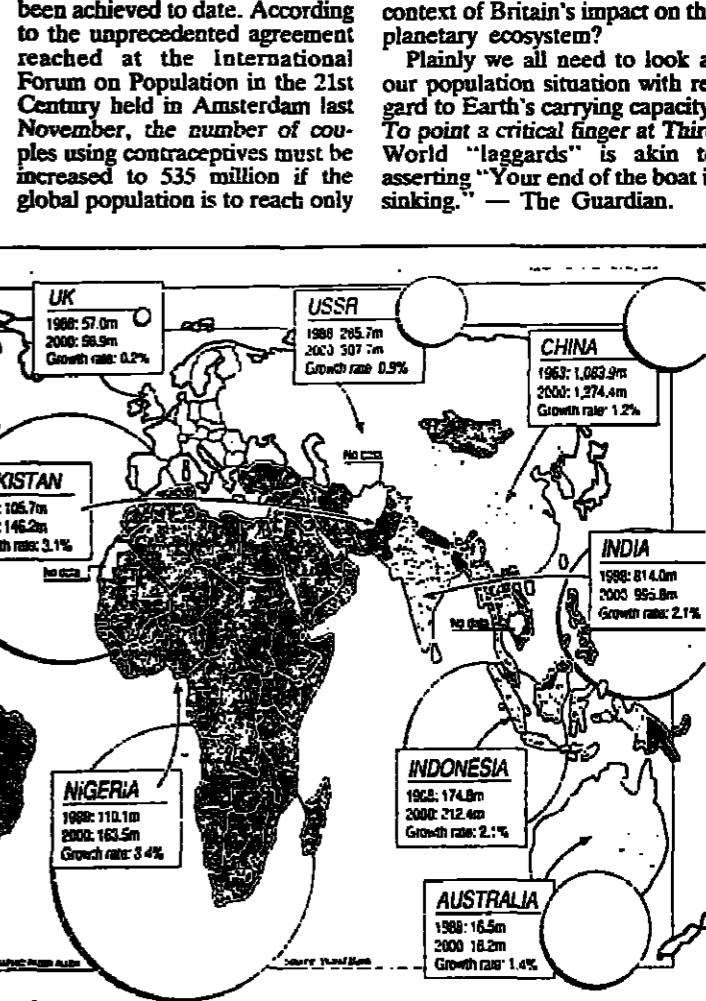
Even this relatively small number would be enough to reduce the ultimate population by many hundreds of millions.

To supply contraceptive services to these women would cost an average of \$15 per head, or almost \$1.7 billion on top of present annual family-planning outlays (China excepted) of about \$1 billion.

In addition there is the need for a comprehensive educational campaign in favour of breast feeding, since bottle-fed infants are 25 times more likely to die than breast-fed babies.

Despite the size of the population problem, there has been some better news on several fronts. The achievements of China, Taiwan and a dozen other countries in bringing their fertility rates plunging in just a couple of decades have exceeded the best expectations of demographers. Many of these countries are well on the way to reaching replacement fertility by the end of the century of shortly thereafter.

Fortunately population policy makers have recently agreed, for the first time ever, on specific demographic targets to slow population growth more than has been achieved to date. According to the unprecedented agreement reached at the International Forum on Population in Amsterdam last November, the number of couples using contraceptives must be increased to 535 million if the global population is to reach only



## Gulf Arab central bankers urge capital market growth

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Government spending in Gulf Arab countries so dominates the economies that no incentive remains for individuals or groups to raise capital for private projects, the governor of Kuwait's central bank has said.

Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, addressing a conference, said state-owned or controlled companies also reduced the amount of equity available for private sector investment.

Many of the state-run firms depended on state subsidies, again providing no incentive to raise funds through the capital market, he said.

Existing GCC markets tended to suffer from low liquidity, and little available information on quoted companies, he said.

Sheikh Salem said the experience of major world markets in the late 1980s had also proved the need for central banks to have the power available to control monetary policy.

"It is important that the central banks have the appropriate tools ... and have the mandate to use these tools," he said.

The governors urged their banks to play a more active role in managing the region's cash flow and for governments to set a firm base to develop regional capital markets.

The bank leaders said the future economic health of the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman — depended on this.

Projecting their vision, they said broad capital markets, backed by firm legislation to protect investors, and clear regulatory frameworks, would free the GCC states from over-reliance on oil.

It would also allow the private sector its rightful economic importance.

"The capital market in many of our GCC countries cannot yet be considered as developed. Existing gaps ... eventually will be filled," Saudi Arabia Monetary Agency chief Hamad Saad Al Sayari told the international gathering.

But he warned GCC financial institutions to help the governments in encouraging broader markets and savers.

Though there has been phenomenal growth in bank deposits in the last two decades, it is difficult to claim that banks have played a very active role in mobilising savings," he said.

"Banks would do well not to lose sight of the correlation between savings and investment," he said.

In the GCC, the oil price col-

lapse of the mid-1980s forced governments to pump state money into the economy to avoid an even more severe recession, placing themselves deep in debt.

To prevent a repeat of this, GCC governments want to spread the burden for growth onto the private sector by providing more investment opportunities at home to stop some of the large outflow of petrodollars to Western capital markets.

They want to diversify from large-scale public spending and state-run firms, and from over-reliance on the few, huge holding companies run by the wealthiest regional families.

The governors said the idea was not to prevent GCC capital outflows, but to provide an alternative for domestic capital, and an attraction for foreign investors.

"I do not expect capital flows from the region to weaken. The prospects for the next few years point to two-way capital flows between the GCC and the world," said Bahrain Monetary Agency Deputy Governor Ibraham Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Bahrain's minister of finance

said that his country's offshore banking sector was poised for sustained growth after a period of retrenchment.

Ibrahim Abdul Karim, minister of finance and national economy, conceded a downside in the banking sector since the oil boom petered out.

But he said the preliminary indications for fiscal 1989 showed "the worst has already been left behind and the banking sector in Bahrain is now poised for take-off to a decade of sustained growth."

He told the conference that Bahrain had 56 offshore banking units at the end of 1988, commanding total assets of over \$68 billion. At its peak in 1985, it had more than 70 offshore banks.

He also noted that the GCC as well as other Arab countries were carefully monitoring the possible repercussions of a single Europe to be born in 1992 and the impact of the recent changes in Eastern Europe.

As part of its efforts to become the GCC financial centre, Bahrain has a fledgling stock exchange that it hopes will be a central one in the Gulf.

## GCC chief criticises EC industrial stance

BAHRAIN (R) — A senior Gulf Arab official has accused European industrialists of blocking a free trade pact between the European Community (EC) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), saying the accord was vital to GCC economies.

GCC Secretary-General Abdulla Bishara told a banking conference a meeting between industrialists from both sides in Spain last month had shown the EC was unlikely to lift painful protective barriers against Gulf petrochemicals.

"We found at the meeting in Spain that the European business climate for cooperation with the GCC was negative — Europe feels the free flow of our petrochemicals to Europe is a threat but we don't buy that, we cannot stomach it any more," he said.

"To us it is imperative and essential — to them it is threatening and secondary," he said.

GCC members Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are spending billions of dollars on new petrochemical and aluminum projects among industrial schemes aimed at diversifying their economies, which are heavily dependent on crude oil sales.

They have been urging the EC, their main trading partner, to lift tariffs on these key GCC exports to help narrow a trade deficit which reached \$4.6 billion in 1988.

Bishara said GCC states should reach out to European consumer lobbies who would benefit from cheaper petrochemicals and whose voice was being suppressed by the EC industrialists.

"The European industrial lobby has too much power and has more influence over politicians than I thought," he said.

The industrialists do not see the strategic importance of an accord between the GCC and the EC — they are totally devoid of compassionate consideration of our position," he said.

Bishara said the EC business men had suggested the GCC should concentrate more on markets in the United States and Japan, whose firms were more involved in joint venture GCC projects.

"We told them that when we asked for their participation they turned their backs on us and even now they are welcome to join hands with us — on that note we parted," Bishara said.

Bishara said GCC foreign ministers would state their views "clearly and forcibly" at their first meeting with EC counterparts in Minsk on March 17.

EC foreign ministers last December agreed a mandate for a free trade pact that includes a lengthy transition period before scrapping duties and quotas.

GCC officials say the mandate,

the basis for trade negotiations, does not go far enough.

"A major component of our development in the 1990s is to structure and develop our trade relations with Europe — this means we must have a trade agreement to ensure the flow of our petrochemicals," Bushara said.

He also believed the GCC petrochemical industry was heavily subsidised, which was a misconception, he said.

"I have very little optimism that a fair and equitable agreement can be reached — we did not see eye to eye," he said.

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The industrialists do not see the strategic importance of an accord between the GCC and the EC — they are totally devoid of compassionate consideration of our position," he said.

Bishara said the EC business men had suggested the GCC should concentrate more on markets in the United States and Japan, whose firms were more involved in joint venture GCC projects.

"We are acting on the assumption that the exchange will not reopen even after Monday."

The strike has effectively frozen about \$30 billion of assets in equity, bonds and notes. Israeli companies face cash shortages because they are unable to sell assets.

"The strike is legal, so management cannot force the workers back to their jobs."

"Firms and private investors

## Libyan parliament demands state role

TRIPOLI (R) — Libya's parliament has set the government a tough task — spend more on state-owned industries, keep subsidies on goods and food, save jobs, provide cheaper loans and give as many people as possible access to imports.

Ibrahim Abdul Karim, minister of finance and national economy, conceded a downside in the banking sector since the oil boom petered out.

But he said the preliminary indications for fiscal 1989 showed "the worst has already been left behind and the banking sector in Bahrain is now poised for take-off to a decade of sustained growth."

He told the conference that Bahrain had 56 offshore banking units at the end of 1988, commanding total assets of over \$68 billion. At its peak in 1985, it had more than 70 offshore banks.

He also noted that the GCC as well as other Arab countries were carefully monitoring the possible repercussions of a single Europe to be born in 1992 and the impact of the recent changes in Eastern Europe.

As part of its efforts to become the GCC financial centre, Bahrain has a fledgling stock exchange that it hopes will be a central one in the Gulf.

In the GCC, the oil price col-

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MARCH 10, 1990

By Thomas S. Pieron, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

imp your home with open arms. Don't go running off and leaving your attachment alone today.

LIRRA: (September 23 to October 22) Reopen your best judgement and not on your intuition and make a trip with your attachment and have a wonderful time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Younger friends can bring you a considerable amount of pleasure. A new look at your home can bring much more happiness to you and make it.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are happy because a friend who was going away is returning here. Much constructive conversation can now take place with your mate.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your home can be spruced up and made more comfortable now. A jeans with your attachment can bring a great deal of pleasure.

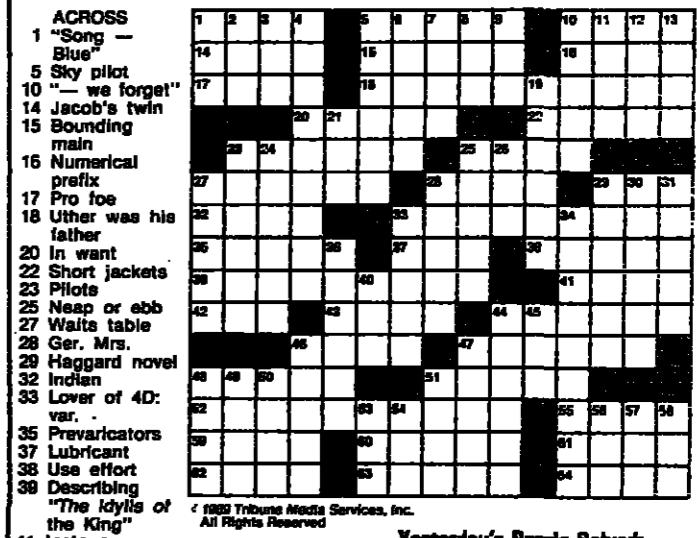
MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Much very good advice will now be given you in conducting your duties. Embrace a prominent woman friend in your home for success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your day to go Dutch treat in recreation with your friends. Be prepared for surprise events and unexpected happenings with your mate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good time to discuss with family ways to improve your home. This is the right time to go off on a jaunt with your attachment.

## THE Daily Crossword

by Betty Jorgenson



# Sports

Virginia Slims of Florida:

## Seles, Mandlikova, Shriver upset in the third round

BOCA RATON, Florida (AP) — Second-seed Monica Seles, number six Hana Mandlikova and number seven Pam Shriver were upset Thursday in the third round of the Virginia Slims of Florida, but rookie Jennifer Capriati beat number eight Nathalie Tauziat in her third professional match.

Sales of Yugoslavia was upset by 10th-seeded Laura Gideoneit 6-1, 7-5. Mandlikova was bounced by Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 2-6, 6-2, 6-1, and Shriver lost to fellow American Dinky van Rensburg, 7-5, 6-1.

Shriver became so angry at her performance that she kicked a chair and fractured her right big toe. After the match, she had her foot examined and learned she will be out 3-6 weeks.

"I knew right away something was hurt," Shriver said. "I needed to get out a little frustration but I picked the wrong mode to do it."

Seles, ranked sixth in the world, offered no excuses for the straight-set loss to Gideoneit. The 14th-seeded Sanchez played steadily on the slow hard courts and countered Gilbert's net attack with his passing shots, winning the match 6-3, 6-3.

Stefan Edberg, the second-seeded Swede, needed just 58 minutes to beat unseeded Spanish Sergi Bruguera 6-0, 6-3. Bruguera, more accustomed to clay courts, was not matched for the serve and volley talents of Edberg.

Becker served strongly in his first set with Skoff, scoring the crucial break in the seventh game and serving out the set 6-4, with an ace.

Becker looked sluggish in the second set, allowing Skoff a 3-0 lead and missing easy forehands and volleys. A double fault from Becker contributed to Skoff's 5-1

## Becker narrowly averts defeat

INDIAN WELLS (R) — Boris Becker came within two points of defeat Thursday before recovering to claim a place in the quarterfinals of the million-dollar Champions Cup tennis tournament.

Becker needed six match points to fend off aggressive Austrian Horst Skoff, the 16th seed, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 in a match that lasted two hours 44 minutes.

Skoff led 5-4 in the third-set tiebreaker with two of his own serves to come but could not claim victory as the top-seeded West German finally prevailed by 11-9.

One seed to fall was third-seed American Brad Gilbert, who lost to Emilio Sanchez of Spain. The 14th-seeded Sanchez played steadily on the slow hard courts and countered Gilbert's net attack with his passing shots, winning the match 6-3, 6-3.

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Boris Becker

lead and the Austrian served out the set 6-1, with an ace of his own.

Edberg won the early lead, going ahead 3-1. Becker broke back for 3-3, but Skoff broke for a 5-4 lead with a brilliant backhand pass down the line, giving him a chance to serve out the match.

Instead, it was Becker who seized back the lead, reaching his second match point at 6-5 which he lost on a forehand pass by Skoff. Three more match points went by, the West German wasting all of them with errors from a tentative forehand.

When games reached 6-6 and the tiebreak, it was Skoff who

took the early lead, going ahead 3-1. Becker broke back for 3-3, but Skoff broke for a 5-4 lead with a brilliant backhand pass down the line, giving him a chance to serve out the match.

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When games reached 6-6 and the tiebreak, it was Skoff who

## Jordan participates in boat race

AQABA (Petra) — Jordan will take part in an international racing boat championship to be held in Kuwait on March 15, according to President of the Royal Jordanian Federation for Marine Sports Simone Khouri.

In a meeting chaired by Minister of Youth Ibrahim Al Ghababseh Friday, Khouri briefed the minister on the activities of the federation locally and internationally. According to Khouri, the federation has held 23 sailing championships, three diving championships and two boat races.

Khouri expressed the federation's willingness to hold training courses for Jordanian divers in order to bring into existence a specialised team of Jordanian trainers in this sport.

Ghababseh also held a meeting with Aqaba Region Authority President Bassam Qaqish who expressed willingness to support the youth movement in the region. It was agreed in the meeting that the sports complex in the port city of Aqaba be supervised by the ministry of youth instead of the Aqaba Region Authority as of

the beginning of next year.

## Oldham seeks cup double

LONDON (R) — Oldham hope it will be third time lucky on Saturday when they play Everton for a place in the quarterfinals of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup.

The second division club, who reached the league cup final 6-3 on aggregate after losing 3-0 to West Ham in the second semifinal leg Wednesday, are at home to last year's losing F.A. Cup finalists in their fifth round second replay.

The winners will be at home to Aston Villa, who have a chance to overtake league-leaders Liverpool when they are at home to struggling Luton in the first division Sunday.

Liverpool are at Queen's Park Rangers for an F.A. Cup quarter-final Sunday.

Oldham captain Mike Milligan is convinced the midweek reverse was just what was needed to concentrate the minds of his team-mates to reach the semifinals when they play at home to first division Crystal Palace.

Palace could be without their lethal striking Duo Mark Bright and Ian Wright. Bright, the club's 15-goal top scorer, is suspended while his 11-goal partner Wright has a blister on his foot.

Manchester United travel to second-division title-candidates Sheffield United for their quarter-final Sunday.

Cup-holders Liverpool were beaten by Queen's Park Rangers 3-2 in the league earlier in the season and utility player Steve Nicol said his teammates were anxious to settle old scores.

## Karpov, Timman play to draw

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Jan Timman of the Netherlands held former world champion Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union to a draw in the second game of the world candidates chess final played on Friday.

Karpov, playing the white pieces, had a slight edge right from the opening and maintained it throughout the game which lasted four hours.

With cautious play, Timman was able to frustrate Karpov's attempts to obtain more from the position. The Dutch grandmaster appeared more relaxed despite having lost the first game.

Timman showed that he was equal to the task. After making his 42nd move, Karpov decided to offer a draw which was immediately accepted by Timman. The position was equal with the players having four pawns and a king each.

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FORUM HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
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### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦ A9842 ♦ 6 03 ♦ Q18642  
The bidding has proceeded:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ 1 ♣ 2 ♦ 2 ♠ ?  
What do you bid now? ?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦ A5 ♠ A1053 ♦ A1053 ♠ AKQ  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 1 ♣ 2 ♦ 2 ♠ ?  
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦ A10 ♠ QJ ♦ KQ1086 ♠ AQ54  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ Pass 2 ♦ ?  
Look for answers on Monday.

## FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY

We regret to announce that the lecture to be given by Dr. Alastair Northedge on his survey and excavations at Samarra, Iraq, scheduled for Sunday, March 11, has been postponed till Thursday, March 15, at 8.00 p.m. at ACOR.

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A leading Jordanian foundation seeks a part-time consultant to train gift shop personnel in merchandising, sales techniques, inventory management, financial controls, advertising, and other areas related to professional retailing. Candidates must have a minimum of 5 years experience in retail management within the gift business and ability to train.

Interested candidates should send detailed background information to P.O. Box 950805, Amman before March 15.

## FOR SALE

Amra Forum Hotel, a division of InterContinental Hotels Corporation is in need of the following candidates due to their forthcoming opening of a new outlet "Vienna Cafe".

Cafe' Supervisor

Cafe' Waitresses

applicants should have an experience in this field. For interview, please contact the Personnel Office, Amra Hotel from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

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## BILOXI BLUES

Tel: 677420

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

## PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

Omar Al Sharif and  
Murvat Amin  
in  
AL ARAGOUZ  
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15

Cinema

## NIJOUN

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NIGHT  
&  
TRAITORS  
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

## PLAZA

Tel: 699238

A FISH  
CALLED  
WANDA

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

## Lithuanian parliament plans to declare independence Sunday

MOSCOW (AP) — Lithuanian nationalists said Friday that plans or a parliamentary declaration of independence were still on and that a vote would be taken Sunday, contradicting an earlier report that it had been postponed.

Lionginas Vasilyauskas, spokesman for the Sajudis People's Movement, said the republic's Supreme Soviet legislature would vote on a declaration of independence Sunday, instead of Saturday as originally planned.

Sajudis members hold a two-thirds majority in the newly elected legislature.

He disputed a report by Edwards Potashnikas, an editor at Lithuanian state-run television, who said the group's governing council had decided Thursday night to postpone the vote.

Potashnikas, who has been accurate in past accounts of developments in Lithuania, said nationalists dropped plans to vote this weekend on seceding from the Soviet Union. He said that, instead, they planned to vote on independence "in the nearest future."

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, trying to quell the secessionist movement, warned earlier this week that such a move would be costly.

He said that Lithuania would owe the central government the equivalent of 21 billion rubles (about \$34 billion) in convertible currency for Soviet investments made in the republic over the past 50 years.

The Lithuanian parliament is scheduled to meet Saturday.

On Wednesday, Sajudis and Lithuanian parliamentary leaders had decided to convene the Supreme Soviet Saturday and address the independence issue the next day, according to activist Audris Stausavicius.

Pro-secession sentiment in Lithuania has been swelling for months, but Sajudis moved this week to force the issue. The group wanted to take action before Gorbachev introduces his plans Monday in the national legislature to create a stronger president's post with the power to crack down on restive republics.

The latest Sajudis decision would provide time to negotiate a compromise between the Kremlin and representatives from re-

publics like Lithuania and Georgia where nationalist sentiments are growing. Local activists contend the new presidency would give Moscow near-dictatorial powers over the republics.

National lawmakers were meeting in Moscow Friday in legislative committees to consider Gorbachev's proposal on the new presidency, the Soviet News Agency TASS reported.

Potashnikas said Lithuania's final course of action would be "tightly linked" to the type of powers the Congress confers on Gorbachev.

The Soviet leader, in a recent congress with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, warned the Baltic republic that seceding would be costly, according to reports of the talks broadcast on official Vilnius Radio.

The radio reported that Gorbachev said the republic would have to pay to the Kremlin 21 billion rubles in hard currency if it secedes. According to TASS, Brazauskas replied that paying that sum in convertible currency "would be an extremely difficult task" since Lithuania imports fuel, metallurgical products and raw materials from the Soviet Union at costs that are about three times lower than world

prices.

Ruble stocks accumulated by Lithuania would be of little or no help, since the Soviet currency cannot be freely used on the world market to buy dollars or other Western currencies.

All three Baltic republics, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, were independent nations between the two world wars. They say they were forced to join the Soviet Union in 1940 while under occupation by the Red Army.

The national Supreme Soviet legislature is considering a proposed law that would give the republics the right to secede from the union if they fulfilled a daunting series of requirements.

Meanwhile the United States is urgently considering how to respond to possible declaration of independence by the Lithuanian parliament, seeking a position that would welcome the development but stop short of recognizing a new Lithuanian government.

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Sources close to the Bush administration said officials were trying to strike a careful balance, that would take the objective legal situation into account but reiterate U.S. support for Lithuania's aspirations.

## Kim to quit as N. Korean leader

TOKYO (R) — Kim Il-Sung, North Korea's "great leader," since 1948, will step down after his 78th birthday on April 15 and hand day-to-day power to his son, Japan's Kyodo News Service reported from Peking Friday.

Pyongyang has already announced elections to the Supreme People's Assembly (parliament) on April 22, more than six months ahead of schedule, and North Korea-watchers in Tokyo have been expecting major political developments.

In Friday's report, Kyodo quoted Chinese government sources as saying Peking was told in mid-February that Kim was poised to complete the long-heralded handover to his 48-year-old son, Kim Jong-Il, though he would not relinquish all control.

"He will become North Korea's Deng Xiaoping," Kyodo quoted the sources as saying, implying that, like China's 85-year-old paramount leader, the elder Kim would retain his hold on power by using his immense influence behind the scenes.

Kyodo said a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman had denied the report, saying: "I know nothing about it."

But the North Korean embassy, contacted by the Japanese agency, would neither confirm nor deny the report.

In the South Korean capital Seoul, which remains in tense confrontation with the North 37 years after the end of the Korean War, the first reaction was one of caution.

They have credited the "dear leader" with all manner of feats including, just this week, inspiring a remarkable upsurge in consumer goods production.

Last month, on Kim Jong-Il's 48th birthday, the official news agency reported the extraordinary spread at home and abroad of a new hybrid flower called "Kimjongilia," which it said was being propagated in many countries.

North Korea watchers in Tokyo, noting this propaganda barrage, were intrigued by the announcement in February that Pyongyang would hold early elections to parliament.

Some speculated it was to pave the way for Kim to hand over to his son, rounding the Communist World's first ruling dynasty.

A Kyodo Analyst said Kim's apparent decision to quit looked like a pre-emptive move to avoid the tidal wave of change which has swept away many Eastern European Communist leaders.

South Korean officials, however, said they did not know if the long-awaited handover about his son.

## COLUMN 10

### 13-year-old skeleton found in house

BRUSSELS (R) — A neighbour who climbed in the open rear window of a Brussels house was horrified to find the skeleton of a woman who may have been dead for 13 years. The skeleton was dressed in a robe, lying on a bed.

Police said the woman, identified only as Rosalie, was born in 1897 and might have died as long ago as 1977. Her house was condemned in 1971 and the gas and electricity were disconnected.

The neighbour, worried that the chimney of the house would topple on his property after recent storms, discovered the body on Feb. 28 but did not tell police until a week later.

### Child turns in gambling father

PEKING (AP) — A 6-year-old Shanghai boy has won praise for informing police that his father was gambling, according to a local daily. Shanghai's Liberation Daily, in Thursday report seen in Peking Friday, said little Wang Leyi appeared at a police station one evening last week to report that his father was playing Mahjong and ask police to "go and take care of the situation." When asked by police who had sent him, the kindergarten pupil said, "Gambling is bad and I came on my own to report him."

The report said police went to the boy's home, found the adults of the family gambling at Mahjong and "educated" the father. The boy, on returning home, said: "I was the one who asked the 'uncle policeman' to come." It said police and neighbours gathered to watch the scene, smiled when he said this, and that little Wang's father and the other adults were moved by his actions.

### Japanese develop colour Fax machine

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Sharp Corp. has developed a desktop Facsimile machine that can transmit photograph-like full-colour images, the company said. The company said the Fax machine is the first made for general office use that can transmit full-colour pictures, although some newspapers use very expensive fax equipment to send page layouts from one printing plant to another. The machine can send a photograph the size of a standard sheet of typewritten paper over a regular telephone line in three minutes, and can reproduce subtle colour shades, Tsutomu Muroi, a company official, said. The transmission time can be cut to about 20 seconds if the Fax is sent over digital communications lines, which are used by some companies for telephone calls and data communications, he said.

For each page, the cost for paper and a multicolour ribbon is about 300 yen (\$2), the company said. In a public test between two Japanese cities Tuesday, the transmitted copy of a photograph closely matched the original, except the colours were slightly darker, Muroi said.

### Bear causes unusual security worries

OSLO (R) — An airport on an Arctic island has an unusual security problem — a hungry-looking polar bear is on the prowl. After dark, ground workers at Norway's Longyearbyen Airport, on Spitzbergen Island around 1,000 kilometres from the North Pole, rush around in pairs for protection. Last weekend, a polar bear lumbered to within 200 metres of the airport. Arctic ice-packs are further north than normal this year, forcing polar bears to hunt in unusual places.

### Global weather (major world cities)

	Min.	Max.
AMSTERDAM	65	43
ATHENS	65	43
BAHRAIN	17	63
BANGKOK	21	73
Buenos Aires	16	68
CHICAGO	61	33
COPENHAGEN	65	43
FRANKFURT	45	18
GENEVA	61	30
HONG KONG	16	68
ISTANBUL	67	45
LONDON	69	49
LOS ANGELES	51	51
MADRID	67	45
MELBOURNE	23	73
MONTRÉAL	12	10
NEW DELHI	11	52
NEW YORK	64	25
PARIS	54	48
ROME	54	38
SYDNEY	60	43
TOKYO	57	45
VIENNA	57	45

M = indicates missing information

## Pretoria cracks down on unrest, dozens arrested

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police said Friday they had detained dozens of blacks in a crackdown on political violence sweeping the country.

"People who are being detained are the troublemakers causing the violence," a senior police spokesman said.

The arrests took place overnight in townships across the country to crush a five-week wave of anti-apartheid unrest in which up to 200 people have been killed, he said.

"It's dozens arrested, not hundreds," the spokesman who declined to be identified said in a telephone interview.

"They are troublemakers, not black political activists. Do not call them black political activists."

Fifteen people were killed and 150 injured when raiders hacked and shot men and boys in a black township of Katlehong Thursday night, community groups said.

They said the dead were victims of a war between two rival groups of taxi operators feeding for the two weeks over routes in Katlehong, east of Johannesburg. At least 40 people died.

On Friday, police confirmed six deaths earlier in the week and seven on Thursday night.

The taxi business is one of the few lucrative enterprises open to impoverished blacks and generates intense rivalry.

In his speech, Ortega repeatedly spoke both of leading the Sandinistas as an opposition force in the future and about the Sandinistas' demand that the rebels, known as contras, demobilize during the transition period.

"There is a calm like those before the storm," Ortega said.

"And we have the obligation of avoiding being swept away by the tempest of civil war."

The situation in the country is very tense, very complicated," Ortega said.

He said contras, fighting the Sandinistas since 1981, continue to launch attacks from their camps in Honduras into Nicaraguan territory "with the complicity of the Honduran government and the United States government."

Civilians proudly show their new AK-47 combat rifles to reporters.

Opposition leaders point to the reports of weapons being handed out to civilians in expressing alarm over a Sandinista bill introduced this week in the legislature that would absolve anyone of crimes committed through the end of March.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### 4,000 rally in Soviet Georgia

MOSCOW (R) — About 4,000 people stood outside government and Communist Party offices in Soviet Georgia Friday to protest at Mikhail Gorbachev's plan to push through a new system of presidential rule. A spokesman for Tbilisi City Council said by telephone the demonstrators in the Georgian capital included 30 people on hunger strikes, 18 of them women. "The meeting is being held to protest against the institution of presidential rule," he added. A journalist at the official Georgian News Agency Gruzinform said the hunger strikers vowed to continue until the Congress of People's Deputies, or parliament, killed proposed presidential powers legislation. The congress is due to begin meeting on March 12 and is expected to pass the legislation easily. Local mass movements, from the Baltic to Transcaucasia, are worried presidential rule will concentrate too much power in Gorbachev's hands at a time when they are seeking to break free of Moscow.

#### Quebec doctors probe birth defects

MONTREAL (R) — A surge in unusual defects in babies and animals born near a nuclear plant in a heavily industrialized part of Quebec has triggered a medical inquiry into the causes. At least nine deformed babies were born near Gentilly II nuclear power plant, which started operating in 1982. The medical team will check the levels of radiation emitted from the plant as well as pollution from aluminum smelters, pulp mills and an oil-recycling facility in the region.

#### Spanish Navy foils port blockade

MALAGA, Spain (R) — The Spanish Navy foiled a fresh attempt by fishermen to blockade Malaga Friday in protest at increased Moroccan fishing fines. Government officials said the navy used two frigates, three corvettes and two gunboats to keep some 20 trawlers away from the entrance to the southern port. Three fishermen needed hospital treatment Thursday when civil guards fired rubber bullets from helicopter and navy launched to clear the port. Fishermen have been blockading Algeciras, Huelva and Almeria for eight days. Malaga and Cadiz are the only large ports open on the south coast. The government representative in the region, Alfonso Garrido, said chemical industries in Huelva were running short of supplies and some had to cut production. He said a joint commission monitoring the fishing agreement between the European Community and Morocco would meet on March 19 to try solve the dispute caused by a tenfold increase in fines imposed by Morocco for illegal fishing.

#### PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R)

Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets in at least eight Haitian cities, including a march on the presidential palace in Port-Au-Prince, increasing speculation that President Prosper Avril might step down.

Avril's wife left the country for Washington Wednesday night, according to diplomatic sources who said they believed her husband would soon be following.

In an interview with the Associated Press in the Thai beach resort of Jomtien, where he is attending an international conference on education, Avril said he was demanding that his proposal to relaunch the party, a move expected to lead to the change in name and the elimination of its hammer-and-sickle symbol.

Witnesses said members of the feared Tonton Macoutes, wearing their trademark dark glasses, were out in force and appeared to be directing military action. Some ordered soldiers to stop beating civilians, the witnesses said.

The United States and Britain, which provided about 30 per cent

opportunities for women and equality of the sexes.

One sign carried by a protester said, "It is not women chain; it is a human chain."

In her comments to the male-dominated British House of Commons, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain welcomed Nicaragua's new president to the club of female leaders during ceremonies Thursday for International Women's Day.

The French saluted women who helped bring change to Eastern Europe. A visiting U.S. women's leader rallied against the social status of American women.

Leaders and women's groups around the world joined in the observances. March 8 was declared Women's Day in 1910 during an international socialist women's conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. The celebration was adopted by the United Nations in 1975.

In New Delhi Thursday, about 2,000 women surrounded the parliament building in a human chain. The protesters, many with clenched fists, called for more

democracy before April 25, when Mrs. Chamorro takes over.

In Paris, ceremonies honoured women who have played major roles in the fight for democracy in Romania, the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

Among those singled out were human rights activists Yelena Bonner of the Soviet Union and Doina Comea of Romania, both targets of government repression for many years.

A symposium on "women and creation" sponsored by a year-old French feminist group, the Women's Alliance for Democracy, featured a host of international feminist leaders. They included Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women in the United States.

"International Women's Day demonstrates that everywhere women are pretty much treated as less than first-class citizens," Yard said to the Associated Press.

Asked about the status of

women in the United States, Yard said "the picture isn't pretty